

Thatcher attacked as obstacle to world peace

Kinnock tries to exploit US hopes on arms

From Robin Oakley, Political Editor, Atlanta

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, is trying to win favour in the United States for his party's unilateralist defence policies by attacking Mrs Thatcher as a warmonger standing in the way of post-Reykjavik progress.

Hoping to capitalize on a new US interest in arms reduction kindled after President Reagan's near breakthrough with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, Mr Kinnock's office produced a document on defence policy asserting: "Britain's attempt to secure Trident is now a real threat to the objectives of the Reykjavik summit".

Arguing that Britain's proposed purchase of Trident will increase fire power between eight and 14 times, it says: "Britain is planning an increase of at least 800 per cent in its strategic nuclear weapons at a time when the superpowers agreed to cuts of 50 per cent".

Mr Kinnock is also claiming on his US trip, which began here in Atlanta, Georgia, at the weekend - that to pay for

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● **Cruise:** Quoting Mr Richard Perle, the US Assistant Defence Secretary, the missiles are of "negligible military value" and would be removed from Britain as part of the so-called zero-zero option "agreed at Reykjavik and supported by Mrs Thatcher".

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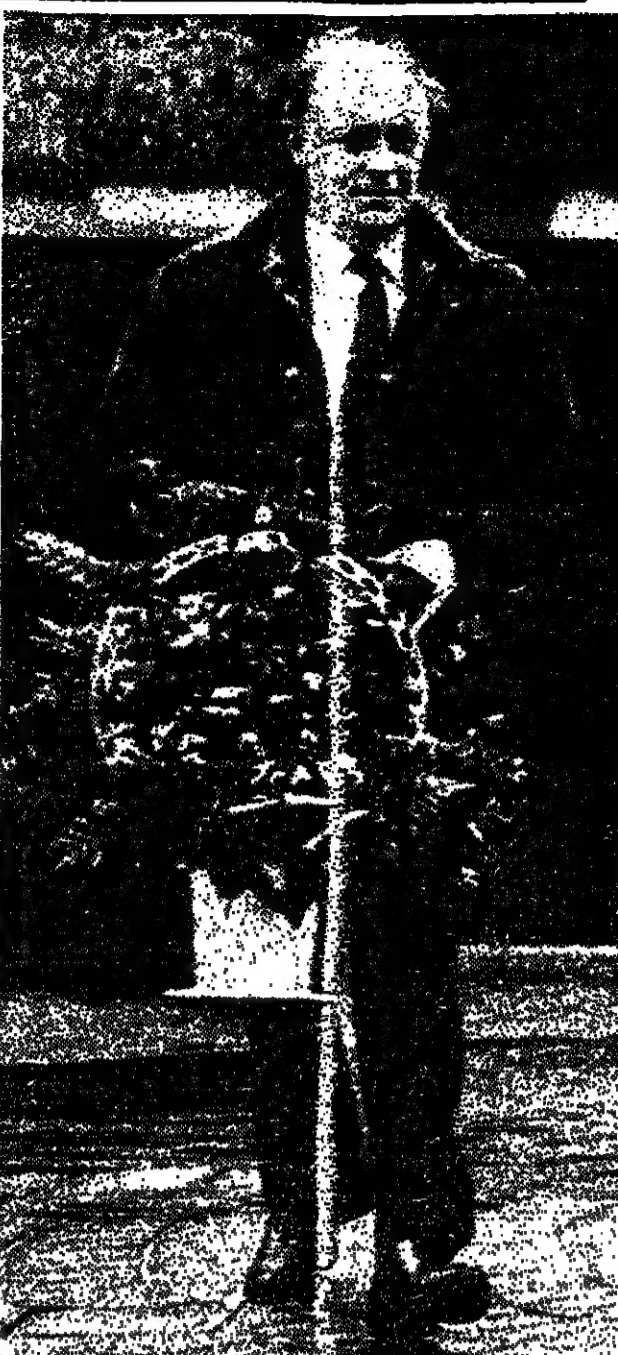
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Mr Kinnock laying a wreath at the crypt of Martin Luther King, the murdered civil rights leader, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Demand for purge grows

Reagan urges staff to 'tell everything'

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan, who called on his staff to "give a speech and lay it all out" if he wished to save the last two years of his presidency, today met former Senator John Tower, the man he named to head the commission of inquiry into the National Security Council, together with Mr Edmund Muskie, a former Secretary of State, and General Brent Scowcroft, National Security Adviser to President Ford.

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Leading congressmen and critics are also calling on him for a thorough clean-up in the White House and further dismissals to restore credibility to his Administration.

Mr Walter Mondale, the Vice-President in the Carter Administration, said yesterday that an independent special prosecutor was essential, and the investigation by Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General, was a "non-starter" that inspired no public confidence. He also

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Secret meetings of a US-Iran go-between

A former Israeli secret service chief who helped set up the first US-Iran arms shipment has told *The Times* that he received no payment for his part in the deal.

Mr Yaacov Nimrodi, aged 60, who as head of Mossad's Tehran station from 1956 to 1970 negotiated Israel's sales of arms to the Shah, denied any knowledge of the \$42 million (about £28 million) said to have been paid by Iran. While \$12 million is said to have found its way to the US and \$10 million into a Swiss bank account for the Contras, it is being alleged that \$20 million has gone missing.

Before leaving for Tel Aviv and talks with Mr Shimon Peres, the former Israeli PM, Mr Nimrodi gave *The Times* a handwritten statement which read in part: "After the release

of Mr Weir, the Americans apparently reached the conclusion that they were capable of releasing the hostages without my help. Therefore I ceased to play any more role in the negotiations. All my activities... were on the basis of national duty and according to the wish of the head of state... What I got in exchange was congratulations from ex-PM S. Peres and Defence Minister Y. Rabin.

● The main questions facing investigators into the arms scandal are: How much profit was made by middlemen; where is the money; and how many shipments were sent to Iran (Michael Binyon writes from Washington).

There is growing evidence here that Saudi Arabia was involved in the deal

Spectrum, page 14

\$2m tag put on 'lost' David painting

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's is to offer a "lost" painting by Jacques Louis David for sale in New York in February and is talking of a price in the \$2 million-\$3 million (about £1.3 million) range.

The painting was found in Uruguay by the Spanish businessman turned art dealer, Señor Pedro Sacrin Bosch, who is reported to have paid between \$7,000 and \$10,000 for it.

Several international dealers tried to get in ahead of Sotheby's and buy it off him before he realized how much it was really worth. Sotheby's, however, scooped the prize.

Señor Sacrin was last in the news over the sale of Goya's portrait of the Marquessa de Santa Cruz last April. He is accused by the Spanish



Detail from the rare David painting, found in Uruguay.

Government of having forged an export licence for the picture before selling it to one of Lord Wimbome's family trusts. The Argentine Government refused his extradition to Spain to face charges on the Goya affair.

The profits made by Señor Sacrin on the Goya deal are unknown. However, Lord Wimbome admitted to making a loss on the picture when he sold it to the Prado at \$6 million, while the valuation on the forged export licence was about £750,000. Señor Sacrin must have made a million or so.

The David is an extreme

Labour plea to councils on debts

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

Labour leaders are expected to issue fresh warnings to local authorities that they cannot depend on an incoming Labour government to bail them out if they run up deliberate debts to escape spending controls.

Prominent figures from the national executive committee and the parliamentary party meet today to discuss the structure of local government, having been warned in an internal party report that the next Labour government could be faced with a bill of some £2 billion from councils who have embarked on long-term borrowing deals.

But Labour's shadow cabinet members are privately telling local authority leaders that if they go further into debt, and fail to act to cut existing debts, they risk bankrupting themselves, and, at the same time, causing massive immediate unpopularity.

The debts would make it impossible for the councils to embark on the job creation programmes which would be a prominent feature of Labour's attack on unemployment, and for which councils would receive central government assistance.

A technical working party made up of representatives of the shadow cabinet, national executive, the TUC and Labour councils has carried out a study of the scale of the difficulties likely to face an incoming government.

The working party, chaired by Mr Jack Straw, a Labour frontbench spokesman on the environment, concluded that without major and immediate changes in financial arrangements many authorities in the big cities could face large cuts in services and jobs and in their capital building programmes, or the imposition of "unacceptable" rate rises.

Labour councils have run up the debts by a series of "creative accounting" measures, the main being the so-called deferred purchasing arrangements under which they have been able to evade controls by making long-term "borrow now, pay later" deals with finance houses to pay in later years.

Although the Government has introduced legislation to ban deferred purchase deals, which will be retrospective to July, some Labour councils are already examining ways of beating that clampdown.

The message from alarmed Labour leaders will be that far from creating new debt, councils must start reducing the debts they have already run up, although they admit it would be difficult for a Labour government to be seen to be failing to go to the aid of a council in distress.

Post plea on gas shares

Organizers of the £5.6 billion British Gas flotation appealed to investors last night to put their applications in the first class post early today.

This is vital, they say, if applicants want to meet the deadline of 10am on Wednesday. Their appeal went out after 500,000 applications poured in on Saturday bringing the total received to about 2 million.

With the rush of last minute applications to come the total should top at least 5 million.

The average amount being invested is £1,100 with many families applying for shares on behalf of their children as Christmas gifts.

A sell-out, page 21
Comment, page 23

Havers to face questions on MI5 lawyer

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government's decision to fight the publication of Mr Peter Wright's spy book in the advice of the senior lawyer of MI5, known as Bernard X, it was confirmed last night.

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, who was not consulted in the 1981 decision to allow the publication of Mr Chapman Pincher's book about treachery inside the security services, was involved in the collective ministerial decision which followed the lawyer's advice to the Prime Minister.

The decision led to the battle in the New South Wales Supreme Court which is causing increasing embarrassment to the Government.

Both decisions were political ones and both followed the advice of the MI5 lawyer, whose name security chiefs ordered to be kept secret on Saturday night after it had appeared in the first edition of *The Mail on Sunday* newspaper. There were fears that he might become a terrorist target.

Sir Michael faces the Commons today and is likely to be asked by Labour MPs about allegations that he was unhappy about the Wright case being launched.

Conservative MPs, at the same time, intend to step up their attack on Mr Neil Kinnock after his admission that he was in telephone contact with the lawyer acting for Mr Wright in Sydney, Mr Malcolm Turnbull.

Yesterday Mr Michael Heseltine, the former defence secretary, accused Sir Michael of undermining the coherence of the intelligence services and other Tory MPs

were urging him to return from his United States visit to make a statement to the Commons.

Yesterday Mr Turnbull said that Mr Kinnock had acted properly and correctly in asking him exactly what was in court. He denied that he had revealed to Mr Kinnock any details of anything that was said in any confidential hearings.

In Atlanta, Georgia, yesterday Mr Kinnock said that he was not on the defensive. He said: "I would rather be in my shoes than Mrs Thatcher's."

Bernard X is the "legal adviser" to whom Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, referred when on Friday in Sydney he corrected his earlier evidence and made clear that Sir Michael Havers had not been involved in the 1981 decision to allow the book by Mr Chapman Pincher, *His Trade is Treachery*, to go ahead unchallenged.

Mr Dak Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Workington, is threatening to publish the names of 43 other MI5 operatives whom he alleged to have helped in publications about the work of the security services if the Government proceeds with its action to stop the publication of another book on MI5, *One Girl's War*, by Miss Joan Miller, a former MI5 secretary.

The Attorney General told *The Times* yesterday that at a meeting with Mrs Thatcher on Thursday the Prime Minister had been "extremely sympathetic" to his position and wanted the record to be put straight, and there was no question of him having presented her with an ultimatum.

Wright's secret letters 'were not destroyed'

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

Letters from Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer, which contained secrets "too hot to publish" in a book on the Security Service are held by Mr Chapman Pincher, the author.

Mr Wright, who has given the correspondence he received from Mr Pincher to his solicitor, Mr Malcolm Turnbull for the current court case over his book *The Spy Catcher*, is apparently under the impression that all his letters have been destroyed.

However, although some have, many have been kept. According to Mr Pincher, author of *His Trade is Treachery* yesterday, they reveal the true nature of Mr Wright's persistent demands for more money for his MI5 leaks, as well as ideas for another book that may have

broken the Official Secrets Act.

Mr Pincher said that Mr Wright put forward the idea of doing a book on the Anglo-American connection in intelligence in a letter dated March 4, 1983. But it fell through when Mr Wright stopped corresponding with Mr Pincher.

"I told Wright that I would destroy his letters because I thought it was too risky to keep them. Some were too hot to include in my book."

"However, after the book came out, I kept most of his other letters and still have them today. They would be very embarrassing for him if I made them public but I am not going to indulge in the same tactics which he has adopted in Sydney. The letters

Continued on page 20, col 7

Tomorrow

Going for gold



Thirty years ago the Melbourne Olympic Games were in full swing and athletes like Chris Brasher (above) and Judy Grinham were winning for Britain. What do their medals mean to them today?

Plus
The town hall attack on Britain's sport

Portfolio

● The £3,000 weekly prize in *The Times* Portfolio Gold competition was shared by three readers and Saturday's daily £4,000 prize was won outright. Details, page 3.
● There is £4,000 to be won in today's daily competition. Portfolio list, page 24. Rules and how to play, page 20.

Grant dies

Cary Grant, the British-born Hollywood star, died yesterday, aged 82, after suffering a stroke in Davenport, Iowa, where he was due to appear at a local theatre.

Obituary, page 18
Appreciation, page 20

Blind-landing equipment is not used

Millions of pounds' worth of sophisticated blind-landing equipment remained unused on British Caledonian's fog-bound fleet of DC10s, 747s and BAC1-11 jets at Gatwick at the weekend (Our Air Correspondent writes). The independent airline fitted its fleet with the automatic landing equipment, designed to beat even the densest fog by enabling pilots to switch to a computer for landing last year.

But under Civil Aviation Authority rules each member of every crew must have been individually checked on his or her ability to handle the equipment before the aircraft is able to use it "for real", and that has not so far been done.

The on-board computers had been used throughout the summer in good weather to land the aircraft automatically and enable the pilots and aircraft to build up the required numbers of simulated blind landings to be given Civil Aviation Authority approval.

A handful of aircraft with all members of the crew checked out on the new equipment were able to land at Gatwick but others had to divert.

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£15,000	77 MONTHS	100 MONTHS	217-73
£20,000	87 MONTHS	120 MONTHS	200-71
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NEWS SUMMARY

Maxwell denies Mirror move

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher of Mirror Group Newspapers, yesterday dismissed as "mischievous and inaccurate" a report in *The Sunday Times* that he is planning to move the *Daily* and *Sunday Mirror* away from Fleet Street.

Mr Maxwell said the *Mirror* was not due to leave Fleet Street next year or on any other date.

He said in a statement: "The earlier plan for a move in July 1987 was cancelled several months ago and the trade unions informed."

Action on meningitis

Britain's first health visitor dealing exclusively with meningitis has been appointed in Gloucestershire, where six people have died from the illness.

Mrs Priscilla Robinson will help doctors to follow up results of the recent mass swabbing exercise, when 5,000 people in the village of Stonehouse were tested for meningitis. She will also travel all over the county, collecting statistics on the illness.

Call for eye tests

Compulsory eye tests should be introduced for drivers, according to more than 92 per cent of people surveyed in a nationwide opinion poll published today.

The survey, commissioned by a manufacturer, found that only 50 per cent of people aged over 35 had their eyes tested every two years.

£3m plan for hall

Melton Constable Hall in Norfolk, described as "the finest empty country house in England" is to be restored in a £3 million development by a foreign-based investment company. The buyers of the seventeenth century hall, *The Go Between*, are keeping their identity and the price secret.

Stars are the hosts

BBC Radio 2 announced yesterday that showbusiness personalities including Frank Ifield, Louie Donegan, Hughie Green (right) and Thora Hird will be presenting a weekday programme in the new year.

Each week a different presenter will be the programme's host. Mr Green will be the first, on January 5.



GP cleared on death

A doctor has been cleared in Leeds Crown Court of attempting to murder a patient suffering from cancer.

Dr John Carr, aged 59, of Branch Road, Leeds, was found not guilty on Saturday of attempting to kill Mr Ronald Mawson, aged 63, a retired engineer, with a drug overdose. Mr Justice Mays-Jones was told that Dr Carr had injected 1,000mg of phenobarbitone instead of 150mg, "to let him die with dignity". Mr Mawson died two days later.

Dr Carr was charged with attempted murder because it could not be established whether Mr Mawson had died as a result of the overdose or his terminal illness.

Long-term jobless 'melt from register'

By Ronald Faux, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Thousands of long-term unemployed are melting from the register after failing to turn up for interview under the Government's controversial Restart programme.

The Restart interviews are designed to advise those out of work for more than a year about government schemes that are available to anyone seeking work or retraining.

The scheme has been tested in nine pilot areas. Those who fail to attend an interview automatically lose their unemployment pay.

The scheme went nationwide in July and if the same numbers ignored requests for interview, millions of pounds of unpaid unemployment money could be redirected into retraining.

It could also mean that more than 100,000 long-term unemployed have been drawing benefit to which they may not be entitled.

The Department of Employment refused to speculate about why so many should have ignored the Government's invitation.

Some may have found a job and left the register at the same time the invitation arrived, others perhaps feared that anti-fraud teams were associated with the Restart programme, although the Department of Employment insists they are not.

Officers were startled when initial results showed that up to 10 per cent of those invited for interview failed to respond and many raised no objection when their dole cheques ceased.

As one officer put it, they simply melted from the register.

Two letters were sent out offering the carrot of help with retraining and the stick of no dole if they failed to attend. Only after the second letter and a lack of any reaction from the unemployed person was the drastic step of stopping unemployment benefit ordered.

The Department of Employment doubts that the true figure of failures is as high as 10 per cent, as initial findings suggested, but say

that 30,218 of the 366,451 (or 8.2 per cent) interviewed because they counted among the long-term unemployed had stopped claiming benefit.

"We have no means of measuring exactly how many of them are now permanently employed. The object has been to draw those people who have been out of work for more than a year."

The Labour Party has criticized the scheme, claiming that fewer than 1 per cent of Restart candidates found work directly as a result.

New Ulster terrorists in grenade and gun attack

Police are taking seriously an apparently new terrorist organization in Northern Ireland calling itself the People's Liberation Army, which has claimed responsibility for a grenade and gun attack in Belfast city centre on Saturday.

The PLA also said it killed RUC Constable Derek Patterson, shot dead in a residential district of the city on November 10.

Several men were still being questioned yesterday after a home-made grenade was thrown into the pill-box outside Queen Street Police Station on Saturday. It exploded as a masked man ran off firing a handgun into the air.

A policeman gave chase and fired a shot as Christmas shoppers sought cover or dived to the ground. His quarry was seen to dive into a doorway around the corner in Castle Street, the city centre extension of the republican Falls Road.

Minutes later police raided the Cosgrove Bar in Castle Street and arrested a number of men for questioning after a revolver was found.

Several policemen were taken to hospital to be examined for shrapnel damage from the grenade explosion, but all were released after treatment.

At about the same time the

Provisional IRA bombed a pub and cafe in Newry, Co. Down, apparently undeterred by the condemnation of the town's predominantly Nationalist population after its disastrously inaccurate mortar attack on the Edward Street police station two days before, when 39 civilians were injured.

A bomb was left in the toilet of the Granville Arms in Mill Street, but a warning was given and the area cleared. It exploded, causing extensive damage but no one was hurt.

Early yesterday the home of Mr Austin Currie, a Social Democratic and Labour Party politician, at Donaghmore in Co. Tyrone was attacked while Mr Currie, his wife, and their five children were asleep.

A man of 18 was charged last night with murdering Mr George McNally, aged 36, who was found with knife wounds outside his home in the Markets area of Belfast on Friday night. Police do not believe there was a sectarian or political motive.

The Government will publish proposals this week to strengthen the RUC's powers to act against provocative parades intended principally to inflame, particularly the long "loyalist tradition" of marching in full regalia, with bands playing, through predominantly Catholic areas each summer.



The Kowloon Bridge, pounded by storms. (Photograph: Jerry Kemmelley).

Oil threat operation begins

By David Sapped

An operation to prevent a serious pollution threat to the Irish coast begins today, when salvagers attempt to pump almost 2,000 tonnes of oil from the wreck of the freighter, Kowloon Bridge.

At the same time, Irish police will begin investigating a report from Canadian authorities that some members of the stricken ship's crew may have been involved in a drugs-smuggling ring.

The 54,000-tonne ship and its 160,000-tonne cargo of iron ore ran aground on Stag Rocks, off County Cork, last week after being abandoned by its crew in a storm.

Some oil drifted ashore from the Hong Kong reg-

istered vessel and, after discussions between the Dublin government, the owners, salvage crews and insurers, it was agreed yesterday that a Dutch company involved in the salvage attempts to haul the Kowloon Bridge off the rocks, should mount an operation to remove the oil.

Salvage attempts to drag the ship off the rocks were finally abandoned on Friday, and it is still not clear what the eventual fate of the wreck and its cargo will be.

However, the Irish authorities decided it was time to act after oil seeping out of the broken-backed vessel had turned up more than 40 miles away.

Irish police also confirmed yesterday that, through Interpol, they had been asked by the Canadian authorities to investigate the possibility of the Kowloon Bridge being involved in drugs smuggling.

The ship was on a voyage from Nova Scotia to Scotland when it ran aground.

A search by police and customs officers, however, is believed to have found no trace of drugs.

Elsewhere off the south-west coast of Ireland, efforts are expected to resume today to transfer 79,000 tonnes of crude oil from the Italian tanker *Capo Emma*, which suffered hull damage in the same storm that crippled the Kowloon Bridge.

TV union leader dismisses criticism

The leader of the television technicians' union rejected reports yesterday that he is facing dismissal as he went on trial before his union's 200-member general council.

Mr Alan Sapper, aged 54, general secretary of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, is accused of helping to spend thousands of pounds of union funds on unjustified first-class travel, drinks and meals.

The general council was considering what action to take over the allegations at a private meeting in a London hotel yesterday. Mr Roy Lockett, ACTT deputy general secretary, said no formal statement would be issued after the meeting.

Although the general council has the power to remove Mr Sapper from the job he has held since 1969, he said there was no question of him being dismissed.

Mr Sapper said: "I am concerned about my position within the union, yes, but I'm certainly not worried about losing my job."

"There is no question of members considering my dismissal or passing a vote of no confidence in me as general secretary."

Yesterday's trial comes after a report claiming that Mr Sapper and 14 top ACTT officials spent £104,000 a year on "unjustified expenses". One claim is that Mr Sapper spends £200 a month restocking the drinks cabinet in his office.

The matter was brought before the union's 35-man executive which referred it to yesterday's general council meeting which Mr Sapper attended.

During a break in proceedings, Mr Sapper said that the object of the meeting was to consider whether he was the right person to recommend proposals contained in a report compiled for the union by Mr Reg Race, the former Labour MP. Those criticised many aspects of the ACTT leadership and management.

Mr Sapper said: "The national executive think that maybe I'm too soft in my approach to people to carry out the very hard and stringent proposals of the Race Report."

Union officials are angry that press reports about today's meeting have concentrated on the expense issue. They say Mr Race's criticisms of travel, meal and drinks expenses, meant Mr Sapper and the other top officials formed only a small part of his report.

It also covered items including financial planning and management structure.

Fears over 'beached' lifeboats

By a Staff Reporter

Five lifeboat stations on dangerous stretches of coastline are without emergency cover, while their own craft are "beached" for repairs, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution said yesterday.

The stations - Filey and Flamborough Head on the north east coast, Sennen Cove near Land's End, Ilfracombe in north Devon and Ramsey on the Isle of Man - are temporarily reliant on neighbouring stations.

The institute fears that could lead to delays of up to an hour in emergencies.

The boats need repairs because of rotting woodwork in their hulls, caused by an unusual electrical friction between the metal and wooden parts of the craft.

The 10 worst affected belong to the institute's 26 Oakley class vessels but similar problems have been found with 14 Rother class boats.

Relief boats are covering five of the stations affected but that still leaves five without cover, the institute says.

"We have a fleet to cover repairs but we had not anticipated this rotting hull problem," Mr Kipling said. The lifeboats at Filey and Ramsey should be back in service by the end of next week, and Sennen will have its boat back within a fortnight, but the earliest date for Ilfracombe is February, and next Spring for Flamborough, which has a special craft.

Each costs up to £100,000 to repair.

Submarine launch will rekindle era of glory

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

The legend of the most famous submarine to have seen service with the Royal Navy will be rekindled tomorrow, when the first of a new class of vessels is launched.

HMS Upholder is the first diesel-electric powered conventional submarine to be built for the Navy for 20 years, and is named after the most successful boat of the Second World War.

She is the first of the Type 2400 to be built by Vickers at their yard at Barrow-on-Furness, and by 1998 will have been joined in service by up to nine other submarines of the same class, in a £1 billion replacement programme for the ageing Oberon-range boats.

Nuclear powered submarines have the operational edge over diesel-electric boats, especially in range, but the new class have the advantages of silence in operation and economy.

The new HMS Upholder has six forward torpedo tubes, compared with the four of her predecessor, and they can be used to launch air-flight anti-sub missiles.

Her predecessor was sunk with all hands on April 14, 1942, during heavy depth-charging by an Italian torpedo boat while she was positioning to attack a convoy north of Tripoli.

But in the years before, under the command of her captain, Lieutenant Commander Malcolm David Wanklyn, the leading submarine "ace" of the Second World War, and the most decorated officer in the service, the Upholder earned a reputation which lives on in naval history.

In 25 patrols over 16 months - most submarine crews were worn out after 15 - the submarine sank 129,529 tons of enemy shipping in the Mediterranean, cutting the vital supply line to Rommel's troops in North Africa.

The efforts of the submarine fleet were acknowledged as the biggest contributory factor in the defeat of the Afrika Korps.

There are few survivors from crew who served in her but one, Captain Michael Crawford, retired, formerly First Lieutenant to Commander Wanklyn, is still alive and will be attending tomorrow's launching ceremony by the Duchess of Kent.

Arson charge after fire traps three

A woman was charged with arson yesterday after a fire which left a young mother and her two children trapped in their home at the weekend.

Lynn Thomas, aged 19, and her children, aged two and three, were rescued by a neighbour who smashed a glass door at the family home in Mortimer Place, Ludlow, Shropshire, in the early hours of Saturday.

All three needed hospital treatment for cuts and shock. The house was extensively damaged.

West Mercia police said yesterday that a woman would appear before a special court at Ludlow today accused of arson.

Disclosure of N-ship alert plans

By Tim Jones

Emergency Ministry of Defence procedures covering a reactor meltdown in one of Britain's nuclear powered submarines have been disclosed by a Labour councillor.

The plans, issued on a "need to know" basis, relate to so-called "Z berths" in commercial ports, which have been designated as suitable to accommodate the nuclear powered vessels.

South Glamorgan County Council decided to release the document, under the Access to Information Act, after the visit to Cardiff last week of HMS Warspite, the attack submarine powered by a pressurized water-cooled reactor.

The document shows that before Warspite's visit more than 24,000 potassium iodate tablets were issued to police, hospitals and docks officials to be distributed in the event of a nuclear incident. A further 20,000 tablets were held in reserve by a Royal Navy radioactivity monitoring team, which accompanies all courtesy visits by nuclear vessels.

Fears over milk price subsidies

Britain may be liable to repay millions of pounds to the EEC Commission if a court rules tomorrow that a Milk Marketing Board former pricing policy was illegal.

However, there are hopes that the EEC will not pursue any claims for repayment of Community dairy subsidies, even if the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg finds that the Government was in breach of EEC law.

The Commission is seeking a verdict against the board, the monopoly milk buyer from English and Welsh dairy farms, for a two-tier pricing system which was discontinued in 1984, soon after the court action was launched.

Under the policy, the board sold milk at a cheaper rate if it was to be made into packet butter than if it was to be turned into butter for sale into EEC storage.

By the time the court action was launched, the board sold milk at a cheaper rate if it was to be made into packet butter than if it was to be turned into butter for sale into EEC storage.

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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR AIR CANADA



Completion of M25 raises house prices by a quarter

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The completion of the M25 motorway around Greater London has caused property prices to rise sharply, particularly in Kent, where the proposed Channel Tunnel is also having a marked effect, according to estate agents owned by the General Accident Group.

The agents, including Cobbs of Maidstone, Braxtons of Tunbridge Wells, and Platt and Mead of Hemel Hempstead, report increases of up to 25 per cent this year. They point out that the new motorway network in Kent and finally the completed M25, have increased Kent's potential.

House purchasers have recognised the trend and that has pushed up values. Mr Anthony Brooks, of Braxtons, says: "It is significant that most current activity and sales are in the west and north-west Kent areas where there is easier access to the M25. There is heavy demand for all types of residential property and country houses in the villages west of Sevenoaks and south of the M25, where prices have jumped by 20 to 25 per cent during 1986."

Mr Robert Barnes, of Cobbs, says that some country houses have doubled in price over the past four years. A period house only a few miles from the motorway was sold by Cobbs in mid-1982 for £105,000 and is currently under offer through them at £220,000.

"I see no reason why the pattern of the last few years should not be followed with a continuing demand for country houses of character resulting in even more price rises in 1987," he believes.

The mid Kent area has seen increases well above 15 per cent because of the improvement of the motorway system, but in east Kent, values are about 10 to 15 per cent lower, being further from London and the motorway.

On the northern section of the M25, Mr Donald Platt, of Platt and Mead, says it is ironic that the busiest junction of the new London outer ring road, the M1/M25, should be the last section to be finished.

"It is, therefore, hardly surprising that the event, having been anticipated for so long, made little immediate impact in the area," he says.

Prices in south-west Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire have risen in line with those of Greater London, varying between 15 and 23 per cent this year.

1.2m homes unfit for humans, Shelter says

More than half a million pensioners in England live in homes officially unfit for humans, and 1.2 million English homes are unfit, according to Shelter, the pressure group for the homeless.

In a booklet published today, the twentieth anniversary of its founding, Shelter suggests a programme to tackle continued problems of homelessness, overcrowding and substandard accommodation.

The figure of 1.2 million came from the 1981 English House Condition Survey. The Shelter booklet also discloses that:

- More than 100,000 English households are likely to have been declared officially homeless by the end of this year.
- A survey in London in March found 4,380 homeless families put in bed and breakfast accommodation by councils unable to offer permanent housing.
- A survey found 127,000 houses in multiple occupation lacked effective fire escapes.
- Government spending on housing fell by 60 per cent in real terms between 1979 and 1986.

Stay with church, gays urged

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Quest, the Roman Catholic organization for homosexuals in Britain, has urged its members not to leave the church in angry response to the latest Vatican document condemning homosexual activity.

Quest's national committee says it is "acutely aware that there are those who feel deeply and personally rejected" as a result of the document, issued last month by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"Although the Congregation's letter will be a source of pain and hurt to many, it should not be the cause of despair," the statement says.

Homosexual Catholics have to continue to search for the church's understanding, and Quest finds in parts of Cardinal Ratzinger's document evidence of a more compassionate attitude.

It emphasized that homosexuals have not been rejected "as persons". The Vatican was careful not simply to categorize a person as a homosexual, but to speak of the common fundamental identity of all creatures of God, "by His grace His child and heir to eternal life".

Nevertheless, the indications are that the Vatican's stern admonitions have caused severe problems for homosexual members of Quest.

Quest enjoys good relations with the English Catholic bishops, and it is understood it was advised not to make that relationship more difficult by an outspoken attack on the Vatican's document.

Optimism over farm machinery

A remarkable resurgence was taking place in British manufacturing industry, Mr Jeremy Coleclough, president of the Agricultural Engineers Association, said yesterday (Our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

Speaking at the opening of the Royal Smithfield Show in London, Mr Coleclough, whose association represents tractor and farm machinery makers, said that in the past three years the industry had produced an innovative range of products.

Those, with the present favourable sterling exchange rate, put exporters in a highly favourable position.

Mr Christopher Evans, the association's chief economist, disclosed that last year exports amounted to £850 million, giving Britain a £250 million surplus on the balance of trade, a 14 per cent improvement on 1984.

Shadow cast over cable TV

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Screensport, the cable television channel which is 80 per cent owned by W H Smith, the newsagents, faces the loss of up to half of its 200,000 subscribers.

A decision last week by cable television administration in Sweden means that the sports channel will no longer be automatically received by its more than 100,000 customers.

It means that Screensport will have to sell its service to customers in Sweden on an individual basis and a short-term crisis seems unavoidable.

Screensport, which is said to be losing about £700,000 a year, was taken over by W H Smith in January. But its growth has been hindered by an insistence on collecting a fee from cable operators for every customer.

That financing method has effectively kept the service out of West Germany, Europe's fastest-growing cable television market, where all forms of pay television are banned.

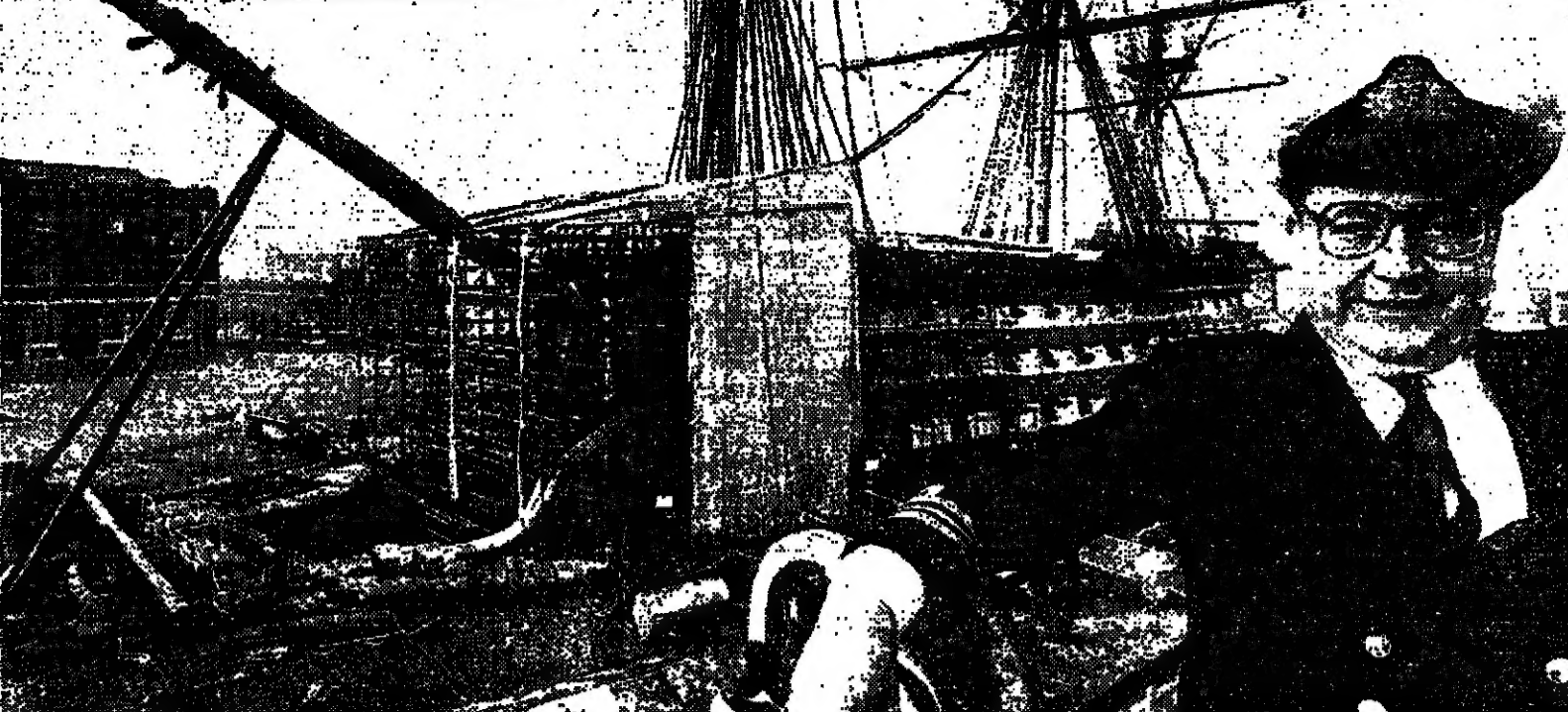
Efforts to sell the service to the Netherlands, where pay television is permitted, have so far been unsuccessful. The slow growth of cable television in Britain has obstructed efforts to expand the service on its home territory.

Mr Simon Hornby, chairman of W H Smith, said yesterday there was no question of withdrawing financial support for Screensport or its sister channel, Lifestyle.

The troubles of Screensport came just days after another pan-European programme service, Europa, shut down and dismissed its staff.

Superchannel, the pan-European cable service financed by Independent Television and the Virgin Group, will reveal its first programme schedule today.

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Lieutenant Commander Lawrence Jay, commanding officer of Victory, Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar, overseeing an important stage in its restoration as the 72ft bowsprit was placed back in position at Portsmouth yesterday. The 10-ton steel horizontal mast was removed four years ago.

Explicit TV scene was vetted

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Michael Grade, BBC Television's director of programmes, admitted yesterday that it was "not an easy decision" to allow explicit sexual scenes to be screened on last night's episode of *The Singing Detective*.

Mr Grade said that he had been called in to vet the controversial scenes on Friday but, after the most careful consideration, had decided they should not be cut.

Last night's episode of the Dennis Potter drama was preceded by the BBC's strongest warning to viewers about explicit sexual content.

The scenes recalled how the central, hospital-bound character played by Michael Gambon saw, as a boy, his mother having sexual intercourse with her lover in a forest.

Mr Grade said yesterday: "After the most careful consideration and debate, I decided the sequence in question could not be cut without destroying the integrity."

Attractions outside London lure tourists

By Mark Ellis

A record 206 million visits were made to tourist attractions in England last year and the three most popular places to have opened in the past five years were outside London.

The Jorvik Viking Centre in York, the Mary Rose Ship in Portsmouth, and the National Museum of Photography in Bradford were the top three new tourist attractions, according to an English Tourist Board report published today.

Innovative displays making use of the latest film and tape technology and computer-controlled animated exhibits made a significant contribution to the success of the 450 attractions opened since 1981.

At York, a Viking village has been recreated and the number of visitors to the centre, which opened in 1984 at a cost of £2.6 million, has exceeded expectations with 997,290 admissions last year.

Diet 'propaganda' opposed

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A swingeing repudiation of "crude and simplistic propaganda" about allegedly healthy and unhealthy foods is put forward today by a group of professors, doctors and nutritionists (John Young writes).

Their views, assembled in a book published by the Social Affairs Unit, are a counterblast to claims that radical changes are needed in our diet if we are to lead healthier lives and avoid disease.

The book challenges attempts to link heart disease with the consumption of animal fats; states that the evidence of the beneficial effects of high fibre diets is far from conclusive; rejects many of the criticisms made of salt and sugar and gives warning of the danger of confusing modest

overweight with gross obesity. Professor Anthony Leeds, of King's College, London, states that health messages should not be simplified to the point where they misrepresent research simply in order to make them short and direct enough for Barbara Pickard, of Leeds University, urges organizations such as the Health Education Council to preach the attested virtues of balanced moderate eating rather than invent categories of "healthy" and "unhealthy" foods, inconclusively supported by scientific evidence.

Fibre intake has statistically been associated with the low incidence of some diseases, but also with a higher incidence of others, including stomach cancer, Professor Ian Macdonald, head of the Department of Physiology at

Guy's Hospital, London, says. The book is edited by Dr Digby Anderson, director of the unit and a frequent contributor to *The Times*.

A *Diet of Reason: Sense and Nonsense in the Healthy Eating Debate*, (The Social Affairs Unit, 2 Lord North Street, London SW1P 3LB; case bound £9.95, paperback £5.95).

Health experts will meet farmers today to discuss ways in which they can work together to combat Britain's epidemic of premature heart disease (Thomson Prentice writes).

A conference organized in London by the Coronary Prevention Group and the National Farmers' Union will examine what farmers are doing to improve public health and where their responsibilities lie.

Clergy urged to act against alcohol

Church leaders from 20 denominations will be urged at a conference at Lambeth Palace on Thursday to take action against alcohol abuse. They will be told the churches can no longer stand by now that

alcohol is the country's third largest killer.

They will be asked to challenge advertisers and call on the Government to review its attitudes towards increased consumption.

Britain's brewers and publicans launch a campaign today urging drinkers to avoid losing their driving licences this Christmas with the message: "Don't get a ban get a bus."

The Northern General, Sheffield, is another main contender hoping to expand the work done at present at Harefield Hospital, west London, Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, and the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. Hospitals in Birmingham, Leeds, Bristol and Cardiff are also likely to compete.

Hospitals vie for heart work

By Jill Sherman

A Manchester hospital is raising funds to start performing heart transplant operations in what could be a pre-emptive bid to become Britain's fourth, and possibly last, national heart transplant centre.

Wythenshawe Hospital, one of the leading contenders for the work, has obtained district and regional health authority approval to perform four transplant operations early next year if it can raise privately the £100,000 needed to start the programme.

Bids to add to the three present centres have to be submitted to the Department of Health and Social Security today.

Like thousands of other goods on sale in Britain's high streets and markets this Christmas, the shirt is not genuine, but one of an estimated 10 million made in Thailand without the manufacturer's permission.

Mr Paul Carratu, of Carratu International private investigators, says that counterfeit perfumes, aftershave, toys and tapes are flooding Britain.

Imitation goods pour into shops

Christmas shoppers have been warned that the crocodile on the Lacoste shirt they may buy is smiling too much (David Cross writes).

Like thousands of other goods on sale in Britain's high streets and markets this Christmas, the shirt is not genuine, but one of an estimated 10 million made in Thailand without the manufacturer's permission.

Mr Paul Carratu, of Carratu International private investigators, says that counterfeit perfumes, aftershave, toys and tapes are flooding Britain.

Portfolio - Gold - Prize goes to building society

Miss Anoop Ghale, aged 21, from Rugby, Warwickshire, plans to give her building society account a boost with her share of this week's Portfolio Gold weekly prize of £8,000.

Three readers share this week's weekly prize.

Miss Ghale, a secretary who has played Portfolio Gold since it started said: "I was really happy when I heard. I'm too busy to take a holiday now but I might next year."

Mr Neil Waterton, aged 35, a carpenter from Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire said he had been reluctant to make his claim at first.

"I wondered if I had really won, and I was very, very pleased when I found I had," he said.

Mr Waterton, who has been a reader of *The Times* for several years, said: "I'll spend a slice of it on a holiday but I have no plans for the rest yet."

Mr S Craig Perry, of Bromley, Kent, was the third winner.

Saturday's daily Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000 was won by Miss E Roberts of Balham, south west London.

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Balham, BBI 6AJ.

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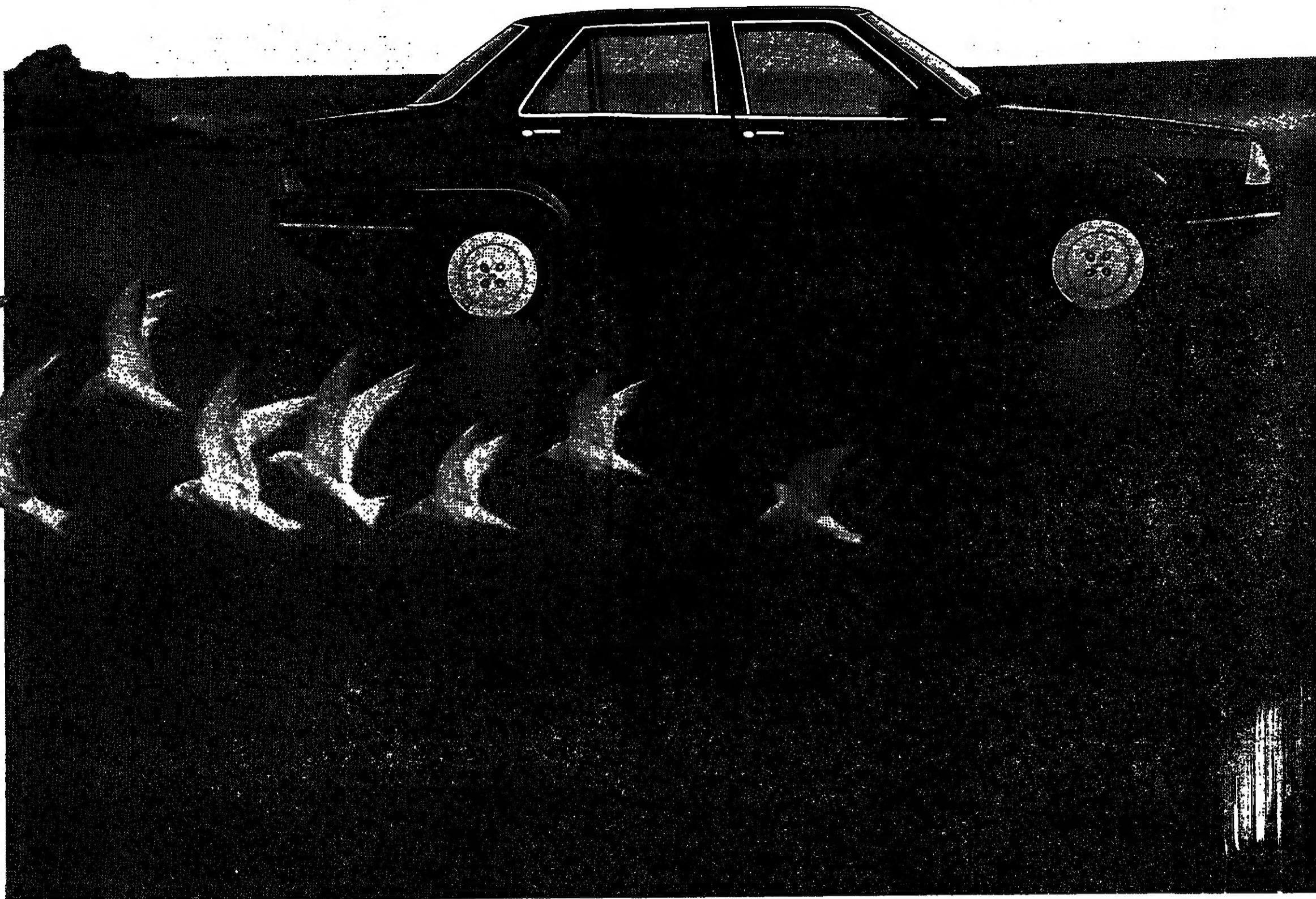
To get you in the Christmas spirit, you'll have the chance to win a hamper or even a holiday on the Venice Simplon - Orient - Express, while on certain sailings we're laying on free entertainment.

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مركز المعلومات

Hailsham may face new legal challenge over court recorder

The Lord Chancellor's refusal to reinstate a dismissed Crown Court recorder, removed from office two years ago, may be challenged in the courts (our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

Mr Manus Numan, who was informed last week of the outcome of a review of his case by the Lord Chancellor, said yesterday the decision was "distressing".

Mr Numan, aged 60, who sat as a deputy circuit judge and then as a recorder for a total of nine years, will now ask the Bar Council to support him in bringing judicial review proceedings over the decision.

The handling of Mr Numan's case was also criticized yesterday by Judge Pickles, a circuit judge in the North-east.

He said: "Whatever the rights and wrongs, Mr Numan has not had a fair crack of the whip and I will be raising this with the Prime Minister."

Mr Numan, who is also to pursue the matter through his MP, Mr David Alton, Liberal member for Liverpool, said that despite an eight-page letter from Lord Hailsham, he was still "totally in the dark" as to why he was suddenly dismissed in August 1984.

He had repeatedly asked for details of what was wrong but these had been refused, as had his request that a senior judge on his circuit be allowed to see

the reports of the allegations against him.

He also accused the Lord Chancellor's Department of lying over whether judges on his circuit had been consulted.

At the recent review of Mr Numan's case in September, undertaken after a request by the Bar Council, Mr Numan was told he was regarded as competent, experienced and a man of absolute integrity.

But there had been reports that he was "sometimes unpredictable, a little impatient and a little over-dramatic".

Yesterday Mr Numan said he believed the real reason for his dismissal, which occurred in the aftermath of the Brighton bombing, was connected with his Irish citizenship. That has been strongly denied by the Lord Chancellor.

A transcript of the meeting between Mr Numan and Lord Hailsham at the review of his case in September reveals the reasons for the Lord Chancellor's decision.

Mr Numan pointed out that none of his cases had ever been overturned on appeal. Lord Hailsham said that was not necessarily the sign of a good judge. "It is not what you were but you were not, and it is difficult to justify a void."

In a letter to Mr Numan, Lord Hailsham said it came down to "tone and atmosphere", "professional personality" and "total performance".



Women getting to grips with car maintenance yesterday at a course by *Cosmopolitan* magazine. They included (from top, left to right): Sheila Barnett, Nikki Holman, Pippa Ainsworth, Susan Wood, Sarah Adams, Frances Shepherd, and Sarah Lambourne.

In the EEC chair: 1

Britain wins progress

The start of a series in which *Robin Oakley*, Political Editor, assesses what the Government has achieved since July in Europe's driving seat.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told a surprised collection of correspondents at the end of June: "This is the last time I appear before you as a mere Foreign Secretary. From now on I shall have added lustre."

He was referring to Britain's six-month stint in the Common Market presidency, chairing its ministerial committees or councils and taking the leading role in charting EEC priorities, which began on July 1.

Beset by the Wright case, Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Government could do with some lustre. So have our five months in the chair actually added any?

Measuring performance against aspiration, the answer has to be "not so as the man on the No 11 would notice". But progress there has been and will be.

Sir Geoffrey's hope was to focus on positive issues such as cheaper air fares to reverse the Common Market's negative image. He wanted the EEC to make "a real contribution to the lives of ordinary people". Britain was to use her six months to drive for the liberalization of air, sea and road transport, for the promotion of world trade and for the

effective co-ordination of EEC foreign policy.

Sir Geoffrey was anxious to tackle the question of heavily subsidized over-production of food and the absurdities of the Common Agricultural Policy (examined in *The Times* last week).

Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet were determined also to move on towards the creation of an unfettered internal market among the 320 million people of the EEC countries. Against that ambitious list the paper gains which can be ticked off look puny.

Political co-operation has been jerky. The sanctions package against South Africa is strictly limited and was much delayed. It took two attempts to win unified EEC action against Syrian terrorism. A trade war between Europe and the United States has been averted, but only by buying time.

There is no immediate prospect of far-reaching reform in the CAP. Indeed it will not even be a topic of importance at this week's European Council summit starting on Friday.

The practical achievements amount to these: Broadcasting and telecommunications: The EEC will not repeat over Direct Broadcasting by Satellite the damaging divisions over colour television when two incompatible systems were developed.

Member states have agreed on compatible standards, as

they have on the "integrated services digital network", an advanced telecommunications system. The market for telecommunications terminal equipment is being opened up. Capital movements: European companies will be able to issue or buy bonds and shares in any member state and restrictions on long-term business financing across frontiers will be reduced.

Doctors: Suitably qualified general practitioners will be able to work in any member state.

Noise: A new directive establishes common standards for labelling domestic appliances with information about noise levels, thus averting the threat of some member states introducing different standards and banning imports from the rest of the Community. Maximum noise levels have been agreed on motorcycles.

At this week's council Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey will be hoping to push through agreement on many more items in a list of 13.

These include: a series of measures to liberalize merchant shipping, Europe-wide co-ordination on keeping up counterfeit goods, the opening up to competitive tendering of government procurement contracts, updating procedures on the testing of human and veterinary medicine, and legal protection of microchip designs.

Tomorrow: Progress in the drive for jobs

Road hauliers call for 'urbanways'

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A system of "urbanways" using road and rail routes to ease city traffic problems has been proposed by the British Road Federation.

Mr Peter Witt, the federation director, told a conference last week that such an urbanway could be used to ease one of London's worst bottlenecks, the A23 to Croydon and the South.

The following motorways will experience major roadworks from December 1 to 8:

Midlands

M1 Nottinghamshire: Contraflow near junction 28 (A38 Mansfield).

M5 Hereford and Worcester: Contraflow between junctions 4 and 5 (Bromsgrove and Droitwich). Various lane closures between junctions 4 and 8 (Bromsgrove and M6).

M50 Hereford and Worcester: Contraflow east of junction 4 (A440 Ross-on-Wye).

M54 West Midlands: Various lane closures between junctions 2 and 7 (A449 Wolverhampton and A5 Wollington).

North

M1 South Yorkshire: Repair work between junctions 31 and 33 (A57 Worksop and A630 Rotherham). Various slip road closures at junctions 31 and 32 (M18 interchange) until end of January.

M6 Lancashire: Roadworks at junction 23 (Merseyside) until end of December. Contraflow between junctions 29 and 32 (A6 Preston and M55 interchange) until January.

M18 South Yorkshire: Delays likely on contraflow between junction 1 and 2 (Rotherham and A1(M)) and between junctions 6 and 7 (Thorne and M62) until late December. Southbound exit and northbound entry slip roads closed at junction 6.

M61 Blacow Bridge: Construction work at M6 interchange. Lane closures in both directions until December.

M61 Greater Manchester: Northbound delays for repairs

between junctions 3 and 6 until end of December.

M63 Greater Manchester: Major widening at Barton Bridge. Various restrictions between junctions 1 and 7 (M62 and A57).

M63 Greater Manchester: Link road from A34 junction 10 to M63 northbound carriageway reduced to single lane only for bridge painting.

Wales and the West

M4 Wiltshire: Contraflow between junctions 16 and 17 (Swindon and Cirencester) until December 7.

M4 Mid-Glamorgan: Restrictions in both directions between junctions 34 and 35 (A4119 Llantrisant and A473 Bridgend).

M5 Gloucestershire: Contraflow at junction 14 (Thornbury).



Northbound entry slip closed until mid-December.

M5 Avon and Somerset: Lane closures northbound between junctions 20 and 21 (Clevedon and A370 Weston-Super-Mare). Delays at peak times until December. Various restrictions between junctions 2 and 28 (A38 Burnham-on-Sea and A373 Honiton).

Scotland

M8 Glasgow: Construction work between junctions 15 and 17 (city centre and Dumbarton) until March.

M73 Airdrie: Progressive northbound lane closures between junctions 2 and 3 (M8/A80).

M74 Strathclyde: Southbound carriageway closed at junction 5 (A725). Contraflow northbound.

M90 Fife: Contraflow between junctions 3 and 4 (Dunfermline and Kely). Carriageway repairs between junctions 5 and 8 (Glenrothes and A91 Glenfarg).

Other roadworks, page 20

Old Master paintings

Venus and Virgin are highlights of auction

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A Rubens oil sketch and a Boucher "Venus" which once belonged to a king's mistress were the highlights of Sotheby's auction of Old Master paintings in Monaco on Saturday night.

An unnamed London dealer carried off Rubens' "Virgin and Child" venerated by eight saints" at 4,662,000 francs (estimate 3-4 million francs) or 5501,000.

Boucher's "Le sommeil de Venus" sold for 4,440,000 francs (estimate 1-1.4 million francs) or 5477,419 to Sayn-Wittgenstein, a New York dealer. The three-foot-high oval is one of the artist's characteristic sensual fantasies and belonged to Madame de Pompadour, Louis XV's mistress, who was one of Boucher's best patrons. The illustrious provenance, no doubt, helped the price.

Sotheby's generally expects French paintings to sell particularly well in Monaco, which is the nearest it can get to holding auctions in France itself. On this occasion, the

Liotard portrait of a gentleman with a white fur muff, of which it had hoped great things, failed to find a buyer and was bought-in at 1.5 million francs (estimate 2-3 million francs).

The Musée Carnavalet, however, had sent a representative from Paris to buy an historic Paris view by Hubert Robert. It depicts the construction of the Académie Royale de Chirurgie, which now houses Paris University's faculty of medicine. It cost the museum 832,500 francs (estimate 350,000-450,000 francs) or 289,516.

The saleroom was packed and several foreigners were bidding over the telephone which resulted in a total of £2,840,645 with 20 per cent left unsold.

The afternoon sale of Old Master drawings also included some surprise high prices, totalling £321,290. A charming view of elegant ladies feeding a parrot made 199,900 francs against an estimate of only 50,000-70,000 francs or £21,843.

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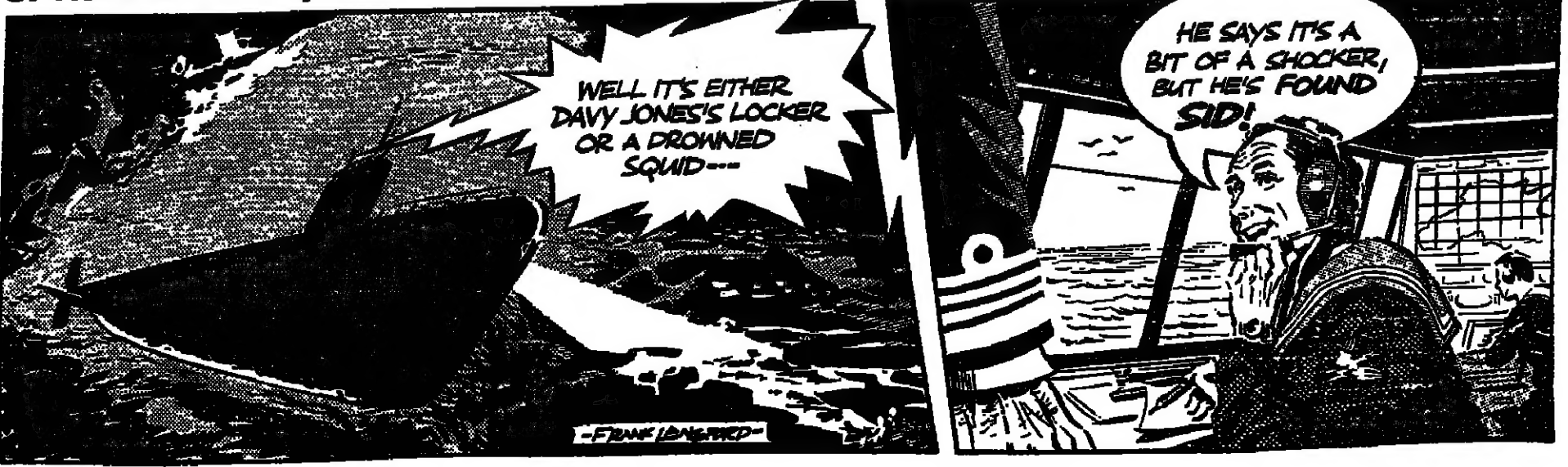
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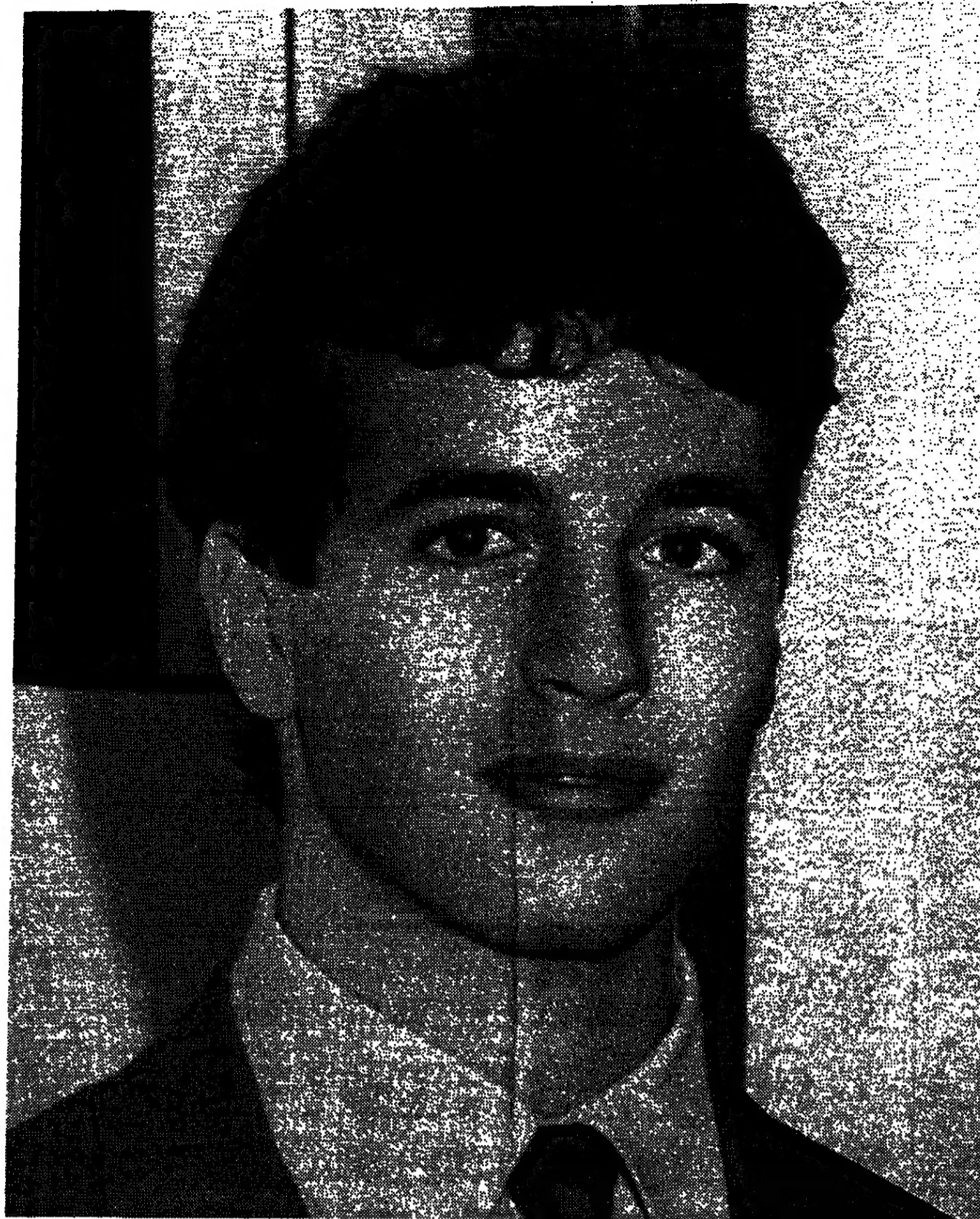
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The 21 year old who told British Industry where to go.

And got £5000 for his trouble.

If you've followed the progress of the CBI 21/21 Competition throughout the year, you'll know that in January we invited all 21 year olds to tell British Industry where to go — in not more than 500 words.

In March we selected 21 finalists who each received £500 and with the help of the sponsoring member companies below, expanded their thoughts into a 5000 word thesis.

After lengthy deliberation, many, many congratulations are due to Aron Miodownik, an engineering student at Durham University. He received the £5000 winner's prize from CBI President, David Nickson at the CBI's 10th National Conference.

So that everyone can read the wisdom of Mr Miodownik's words, the CBI plans to publish his thesis, plus extracts of others, at the end of Industry Year.

So high was the quality of the entries that the judges decided a second prize of £1,000 should be awarded to Thomas Dunn of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, studying Economics at Cambridge.

Perhaps even more important than the prize money, all 21 finalists are likely to get good jobs. Hopefully before too long they'll have a chance to put their theories to the test.

So while congratulating Aron and Thomas again, we can't help but think that the real winner has been British Industry.

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مركز الأمل

WORLD SUMMARY

Punjab terrorists kill 24 on bus

Delhi — In the third and worst incident of random killing on board a country bus, Punjab terrorists last night shot and killed at least 24 bus passengers in Hoshiarpur district, bringing yesterday's death toll in the troubled state to 26 (Michael Housley writes).

Four terrorists were reported by police to have boarded the bus and forced the driver at gunpoint to drive on to a side road. Half a mile along the road they stopped the bus and forced the passengers off, before opening fire on them and killing 24 and injuring another nine.

Meanwhile in Batala, farther south, two gunmen shot one man dead and wounded another in a more deliberate assassination operation.

Vanunu in court

Jerusalem — Mr Mordechai Vanunu, *The Sunday Times* nuclear informant who disappeared in London on September 30, spent an hour in court in Jerusalem yesterday while his lawyer, Mr Amnon Zichroni, argued in vain for the case to be held in public (Ian Murray writes).

The request was refused, but the court agreed to delay a decision on whether he must stay in custody until the end of all legal proceedings against him.

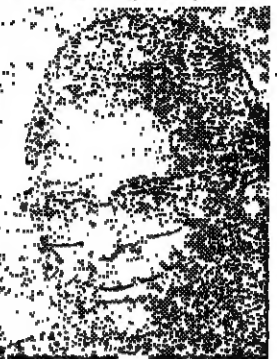
Satellite viewing

Paris — Cable television makes a tentative start in Paris today when the firm Paris Cable begins a six-month trial transmitting to about 100 homes in the 13th, 14th and 15th arrondissements for a monthly 140-franc subscription (Susan MacDonald writes).

Besides providing several French channels, Paris-Cable will transmit foreign stations including BBC1, the Italian RAI 1 and the British satellite channel, Sky Channel.

Muzorewa returns

Harare — Bishop Abel Muzorewa (below), the



country's first black prime minister and former leader of a now insignificant opposition movement, has returned to Zimbabwe after a 16-month absence and resumed politics (Jan Raath writes).

The diminutive bishop, the former president of the United African National Council, which ruled the country during its ten-month existence as Zimbabwe Rhodesia in 1979, fled secretly to America in July last year during national elections.

Bhopal go-ahead

Delhi — The judge hearing the case against Union Carbide over the Bhopal gas tragedy yesterday gave the company the go-ahead to dispose of its property provided it keeps \$3 billion to meet any judgment against it (Our Own Correspondent writes). An independent valuer will be appointed by the court.

It's a girl by choice

Naples (Reuters) — A baby girl whose sex was predetermined by doctors who separated male and female-determining sperm during test-tube fertilization, was born yesterday in a Naples hospital.

Baby Teresa, born by caesarian section, weighed just over 5½lb. She is in an incubator.

Windpower in action

Oslo — Norway has announced several promising initiatives, involving wind, wave and solar power, in the post-Chernobyl scramble to develop sources of alternative energy (Tony Sammut writes).

Last month the nation's first windpower station came on stream at Froeya Island near the mouth of the Trondheimsfjord.

British middlemen and the supply of arms to Iran

London may be vital link in Tehran war effort

By Nicholas Beeston

Iran may step up its arms procurement operation in London with the help of British middlemen, now that the supply of US weapons has been exposed and halted, Iranian dissident sources said yesterday.

London's importance as a venue for Tehran's arms deals was highlighted by *The Sunday Times*, which claimed that retired US Air Force General Richard Secord, acting on behalf of the National Security Council, met Iranian officials in a West End safe house to organize the shipment of weapons to Iran.

An Iranian dissident source, who monitors Tehran's arms-buying activity, explained that London was vital for Aya-



Crisis in the White House

tollah Khomeini's war effort for five important reasons.

"London is a major banking centre where large amounts of money can be transferred unnoticed; London has a large Iranian community, where the comings and goings of people involved in the purchase of weapons can be concealed; London is an international arms-purchasing centre where British dealers have access to Nato equipment, which is badly needed for Iran's US-

equipped forces; and London has good communications and is well-located," said the source.

The sources claimed that the offices of the Iranian National Oil Company at 4 Victoria Street in Westminster, were a front for the buying operation, and added that Iran has a staff of 50 military personnel working in London who organize the purchase of 70 per cent of Iran's military needs.

It is believed that the activities of the Iranians are closely monitored by the police and security services.

But in spite of questions raised in the House of Commons relating to the arms procurement activities, the Government has so far taken

no action to curb the operation.

The dissident sources also allege that British middlemen have played a vital role in organizing shipments of US-made arms to Iran.

The allegations were made after a US customs official testified in court that a Northern Ireland union activist and a British businessman were wanted by the authorities for their part in an illegal operation to smuggle arms from the US to a number of prohibited states, including Iran.

The men were accused of complicity in an operation to sell sophisticated US navigational tracking equipment, which consisted of 20 mobile and 20 semi-fixed beacons valued at £23,000 each.

"It is not surprising that

British arms dealers have become involved in the purchasing, because millions of dollars are spent on arms each year by Khomeini through London," said one dissident source.

Yesterday the spokesman from two anti-Khomeini movements, the People's Mujahedin of Iran and the National Movement of Iranian Resistance, said that the London offices of the National Iranian Oil Company was a front for Iran's global arms procurements.

It is believed that up to 70 per cent of Iran's requirements are bought through the London procurement operation.

Iranian circles in London believe that the revelation that the White House was secretly

supplying Tehran with US weapons will result in Tehran finding it more difficult than ever to buy sophisticated US equipment on the arms market.

They predict that the use of British arms dealers as middlemen will become increasingly important to the Iranian war machine against Iraq.

The activities of British arms dealers last surfaced in 1985 when US attorneys prosecuting two American businessmen in Chicago revealed in court that two Britons and one Israeli, resident in London, were involved in smuggling radar and night-vision equipment in "Operation Exodus".

Spectrum, page 14

US 'brokers of death' trial faces collapse

From Christopher Thomas, New York

The trial in New York of 17 "brokers of death", accused of plotting to sell \$2 billion (£1.4 billion) in American arms to Iran, looks suddenly in danger of collapse.

Government attorneys are intensely embarrassed that they are attempting to send the men to jail for doing the very thing that White House officials have been doing. Mr Benito Romano, one of the principal prosecutors, said: "Obviously new facts have come to light which must be fully developed and assessed."

The defendants have insisted since being indicted last April that high Administration officials were fully aware of their scheme throughout.

Defence attorneys have noted that at the very time American arms were arriving in Iran, the US Government was conducting an important "sting" operation to trap arms merchants dealing with Iran.

The trial is in the Southern District of New York in Manhattan. The defendants say the man who headed the Government's sting operation, Mr Cyrus Hashemi, an Iranian, also was involved in shipping arms to Iran at the behest of Administration officials.

Mr Hashemi died suddenly in London last July in circumstances which his brother has been quoted as saying were suspicious. He was a cousin of Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, Speaker of the Iranian Parliament.

Attorneys for one of the defendants, Mr Nico Minardos, a Los Angeles business-

man, who spent three months in jail until he could put up \$2 million in bail, say they are seeking an apology from the Government. Attorneys for another of the defendants, Mr Gurriel Eisenberg, an Israeli businessman, are demanding that the case be dismissed.

Another hearing in the case is due this afternoon in the Federal District Court in Manhattan. Documents made

The Red Cross will be allowed to visit Israeli prisoners of war from tomorrow for the first time in two years (Our Foreign Staff writes). Miss Sandra Singer, of the British Red Cross, said: "Many have been in prison in Iran for longer than the Second World War."

public so far in the trial include transcripts of conversations taped secretly by Mr Hashemi, in which there is discussion with some of the defendants about the expected approval for arms shipments by high Administration officials, including Mr George Bush, the Vice-President.

The United States Customs Service, which began the sting operation, clearly knew nothing about the Government's arms operation. Mr William Van Raab, Commissioner of the Customs Service, previously called the defendants "brokers of death". The case is rich in international intrigue, including secret meetings in Europe, tapes of conversations made at luxury hotels, and the constant invoking of the names of high Administration officials.



Former President Nixon with Miss Yu Fang, of the Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe, during a circus performance at the Meadowlands Sport Complex in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Israeli briefing on shipments

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

The Israeli Cabinet was told in some detail yesterday about the way in which arms were delivered to Iran.

The briefing was by the three ministers who knew anything about it — Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister.

This part of the Cabinet meeting was held in secret for security reasons, but afterwards a spokesman said that ministers were convinced that Israel had done nothing either morally wrong or illegal in agreeing to make the deliveries for the US. Mr Peres is due to give another confidential briefing tomorrow to the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee.

Meanwhile, the Government has told the US that it will co-operate with American investigations into the affair. Officers from the Federal

Bureau of Investigation are to be allowed to cross-examine Israeli officials who may have been involved in the action.

These include Mr David Kimche, the Director-General of the Foreign Ministry until last month, who is thought to have been the originator of the entire scheme. He suggested it in the summer of last year to Mr Robert McFarlane, who was then the National Security Adviser at the White House.

Mr Kimche, British born, had worked as an undercover agent for Mossad, the Israeli secret service, for 27 years. Mr Al (Adolf) Schwimmer is another Israeli likely to be questioned. An American airman who helped Israel form its first Air Force in 1947, he went on to found Israeli Aircraft Industries, which today produces its own sophisticated jet fighters.

He never abandoned his undercover life, and his most famous exploit while working with Mossad was in helping to steel the plans for the French

Mirage after General de Gaulle put an embargo on arms sales to Israel in 1968.

Mr Yacov Nimrodi was an essential member of the team because he had such intensive contacts inside Iran, where he worked as Israeli military attaché in the early 1970s.

Known to have worked closely with Mossad, he used his contacts in becoming one of the world's most successful arms dealers, living in Israel but with an office in London. He is one of about 800 private Israeli arms dealers who were given a letter of authority by the Government to work independently selling arms under a system which was abolished only last month.

Two men still in government service are also likely to be interrogated. These are Mr Amiran Nir, the counter-terrorism adviser in the Prime Minister's Office, who acted as liaison man, and Mr Nimrod Novik, a close associate of Mr Peres, who has been his political adviser.

Archivist to release Nixon's secrets

From Our Own Correspondent New York

After 12 years of court battles and fierce Congressional argument, the United States Archivist is due to release 1,500,000 documents today from the White House files of the Nixon Administration.

Former President Richard Nixon has spent a fortune of his own money in trying to delay public access to his papers. Today's release will be only a fraction of the 40 million pieces of paper and 4,000 hours of tape that have been collecting dust in a warehouse in Arlington, Virginia, since he left office in 1974.

It will be the first release of documents since the 12½ hours of Oval Office tapes were introduced as evidence in the Watergate trials. Their release has been awaited eagerly by Presidential scholars and authors.

But the likelihood is that they will contain little if anything sensational. They are from the White House "Central Files Unit", and are catalogued under such subjects as agriculture, health, and religion.

Still to be released are millions of documents on Mr Nixon's use of his executive power and thousands of hours of recordings of conversations at the White House.

Mr Stan Mortenson, Mr Nixon's lawyer, said that Mr Nixon "is being treated differently from every other President. All we seek is equal and fair treatment." He noted that Dwight Eisenhower's files were kept from the archivists for 15 years, and that nobody had access to Harry Truman's files "for a lengthy time".

He added: "It will be 30 years before Kennedy's tapes come out. Richard Nixon is being treated differently because people don't care about those others."

"For 200 years there was an unbroken mutual understanding that a President's files and records were his property. Every predecessor took them with him. We are simply claiming Mr Nixon's private property rights."

Reagan's men fear Kremlin wrath

By Andrew McEwen Diplomatic Correspondent

The West faces a major psychological disadvantage in arms control talks beginning tomorrow.

Some form of Soviet reaction against Washington's technical breach of the 1979 Salt 2 treaty is widely expected.

Many Western diplomats believe the Kremlin will show its displeasure when its strategic arms control negotiators meet US officials in Geneva.

Three meetings have been scheduled in the hope of regaining some of the impetus

dissipated since the Reykjavik summit. The talks were intended to break the long gap between the last round, which ended on November 12, and the next, scheduled for January 15.

The temptation for Moscow to turn tomorrow's encounter into a point-scoring exercise will be strong, the diplomats say.

Washington's decision to authorize the first flight of the 131st B 52 bomber equipped to carry cruise missiles was described as "a straight propaganda gift to the Russians". The Administration is

nored the virtually unanimous views of its European allies that the treaty limits should not be exceeded.

American claims that the decision was made in response to Soviet breaches of the same treaty have been only partly accepted.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, said the decision "will make it more difficult to search for approaches to disarmament".

Meanwhile, the semi-paralysis of decision-making in Washington, following the Iranian arms revelations, threatens to overshadow two

important Nato meetings.

The Nato defence ministers are to meet in Brussels on Thursday and Friday, followed by the foreign ministers a week later.

The second meeting is of major importance, as Nato has to decide what attitude to take to the Warsaw Pact's "Budapest Appeal", which proposed that each side withdraw 500,000 troops from Central Europe.

Cuts of that order would be one of the essential conditions that might persuade Britain to allow Trident to be negotiated away in the distant future.

Fraud search finds 'Dead Sea scroll'

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

An old leather manuscript, which might be part of a 2,000-year-old Dead Sea scroll, has been discovered in Bethlehem during investigations into an important fraud case involving the District Commissioner of Jerusalem, Mr Rafi Levy, and the Armenian Archbishop Shaha Ajamian.

The scroll has been taken for testing to try to verify its age and whether it is genuine.

Experts believe that 30 or more of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were hidden in caves near the monastery of the Essene sect at Qumran around AD 70, have been hidden away since their discovery nearly 40 years ago.

Even tiny fragments of the scrolls have changed hands for enormously high prices, and the Israeli Government has brought in a law which makes it illegal to sell them to anyone other than the state.

Several wealthy private collectors or institutions are nevertheless believed to have kept or obtained parts of the scroll.

The piece discovered in Bethlehem was in the home of two brothers remanded in custody for questioning about the fraud case. Other valuable antique objects were also found by police searching their house.

With their arrest police believe they have now finished their search for evidence of stolen goods and documents needed in the case.

Archbishop Ajamian has now been released on bail of the equivalent of some £350,000.

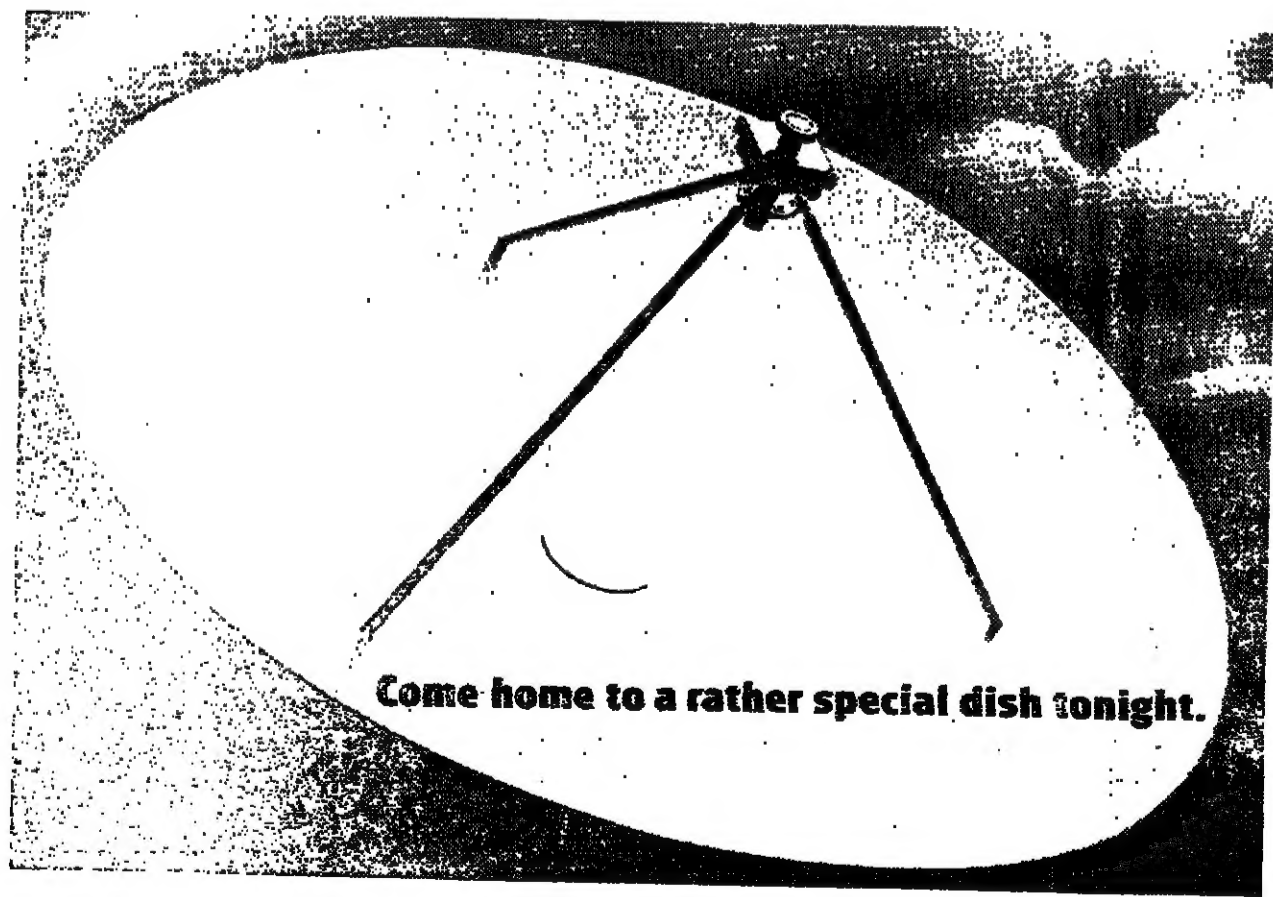
He is under investigation for illegal possession of firearms and for using bribes to obtain identity cards for friends from Mr Levy, who is still remanded in custody.

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Revenge for Beirut car bomb

Killing makes macabre street theatre as camp battle rages

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Beirut

It was a macabre way of diverting attention from the real, savage war. Hooded gunmen of the Shia Muslim Amal militia of Mr Nabih Berri, the Justice Minister, took the law into their own hands and "executed" an alleged car bomber in the southern suburbs of Beirut before a crowd chanting: "We hope you don't come back any more."

Children and women standing on the balconies of a narrow street in the Haydari neighbourhood ignored the blasts of artillery shells from the nearby Palestinian camp of Bourj el-Barajneh and watched as scores of Amal gunmen dragged a man wrapped in a sheet from a brand new burgundy-coloured Plymouth limousine.

The gunmen below them cocked their weapons, threatening to shoot in the air as they made their way to a junction where Mahmoud Ali Janad was "sentenced" to die

for his alleged role in a car bomb that killed seven people at the same spot in February 1985.

The bizarre affair was organized so as to allow a balding man in his forties time to tell reporters how seven of his relatives were wounded by the car bomb. Then one of the hooded gunmen briefly removed the sheet from the victim's head to ask him formally for his name and for those who had been behind the attack. "The Lebanese Forces," he replied, referring to the main Christian militia in east Beirut.

The firing squad of five men emptied the magazines of their Kalashnikovs into the condemned man, who fell forward and then jolted into the mound of red earth behind him. The gunfire shredded the sheet around the victim, deafening the curses of the crowd. Normal street life might have

returned to the scene had not the roar of heavy artillery less than a mile away sent the spectators scurrying indoors.

Savage battles between Amal and Palestinian guerrillas defending the Bourj el-Barajneh and Chatilla camps continued all day, with the guerrillas still holding on to the smouldering ruins of Chatilla under the mortar and tank fire which has been directed at them since Wednesday.

In the hilltop village of Magdouch, east of Sidon, the battle between the sides entered its second week with no winners or losers. Supported by Lebanese Army armoured units, Amal was apparently still in control of half of the village which overlooks two refugee camps in the outskirts of Sidon and the main coast road to Tyre.

Video footage shot by a Lebanese cameraman, who followed Amal in their latest

onslaught early yesterday morning, showed scores of bodies littering the streets of the Christian village. Radios said that 150 people had been killed and about 260 wounded in 24 hours of fighting in Beirut and Magdouch.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organization denounced Amal's campaign as an operation seeking the "destruction and liquidation" of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and officially asked for an extraordinary meeting of the Arab League.

It was against this background of a grave deterioration in security over a large part of Lebanon that Mr Muhammad Mehdi, secretary-general of the New York-based National Council for Islamic Affairs, arrived in Beirut in a new attempt to gain the release of 17 foreigners held hostage in Lebanon.



Professor Lincoln Lucena of Brazil, left, conceding the contest in Dubai for presidency of the International Chess Federation to Mr Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines.

Melilla Muslims seeking the vote

Madrid — The Muslim population of the Spanish enclave of Melilla in North Africa is demanding proportional representation and calling for postponement of municipal elections until Muslims are allowed to vote (Harry Debelius writes).

A document drawn up by the leader of the Muslim community, Mr Aomar Mohamedi Duda, warns that, if municipal elections are held next June without first assuring equal rights and voting privileges for Muslim residents, "the Muslim people of Melilla will not accept the results".

New President

Abidjan (AP) — Ivory Coast voters have overwhelmingly approved a new constitution and elected General André Kolingba as President. Bangui radio announced.

Rabies case

Ceuta (Reuters) — Health officials here have detected a case of rabies and have banned the transport of dogs and cats to Spain to prevent the spread of the disease.

Best film

Rio de Janeiro (AP) — The British film, *My Beautiful Laundrette*, won the Golden Toucan award at the third annual Rio International Film, Television and Video Festival, beating 57 films from 18 countries.

Death plunge

Bogotá (AFP) — A 31-year-old Colombian paratrooper crashed to his death when his parachute failed to open during a series of exhibition jumps designed to attract new recruits to the paratroop corps.

Pearl fortune

Peking (Reuters) — China's official news agency praised a £38,000-a-year pearl farmer who "may well be the richest of all the new rich peasants in China".

Dog's life

Metheun, Massachusetts (AP) — Lucky, an 8-year-old alaskan police dog, is living the retired life of a household pet complete with a pension of \$1.50 a day after a six-year career that included helping in 12 arrests.

Canadian Liberals set to back Turner

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr John Turner, leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, appeared poised yesterday to win a vote of confidence from delegates to a party convention in Ottawa.

But whether the vote would be strong enough for him to carry on effectively as leader remained unclear as voting, which began on Saturday night, resumed.

The result was expected to be announced towards the middle of Sunday afternoon.

All indications were that the former Prime Minister, aged 57, would obtain the support of most of the close to 3,000 Liberals from across Canada voting on whether the party should hold a new leadership convention. Periodic votes on the leader's performance are provided for under the Liberal constitution.

But the bare majority would be insufficient for him to remain in effective control. Most observers agreed that at least 60 per cent, and preferably 70 or 75 per cent, was required to give him a firm

mandate and subdue, if not silence, his highly vocal critics within the party.

Some polls indicated that the leader would receive such a comfortable margin.

The Mr Turner was in a buoyant mood throughout the convention, which began on Thursday night and ended yesterday. There was no doubt that pro-Turner forces were in charge of the gathering.

The leaders' portrait was everywhere. Turner scarves and trinkets were on sale in the convention corridors, and groups of supporters lustily cheered his every appearance.

Possibly the most fateful policy decision taken by the convention was the near-unanimous adoption of a resolution that would give French-speaking Quebec a veto over future constitutional changes. Alone of the 10 Canadian provinces, Quebec refused to accede to the present constitution when it was adopted in 1982, but now it wants to join, if it can get favourable terms.

Papal tour hailed as big success

Perth (Reuters) — The Pope yesterday wound up a remarkable odyssey throughout the length and breadth of Australia that was hailed by commentators as a resounding success.

In less than a week he travelled 6,000 miles, visiting the capital of every state and territory, as well as Alice Springs in the desert centre of the vast continent.

"He is a remarkable man, and a singular force for good. Australia has been honoured by his presence," said *The Age*, the influential newspaper based in Melbourne.

The Pope's frantic schedule gave him only a few hours in many places, but the tour made a big public impact.

The Roman Catholic Church hoped the Pope's performance would reverse a major decline in religious practice and priestly vocations in Australia.

Archbishop Edward Clancy, president of the Australian Bishops' Conference, said it was too soon to say whether this would be achieved.

Poland's unions show teeth

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland's post-Solidarity trades union movement wound up a politically important congress at the weekend with a welter of criticism about the problems of living in a land of short supply.

Dozens of delegates representing the seven million members of the officially funded organization attacked, in working groups and in plenary sessions, poor working conditions, the housing shortage, consumer difficulties and inefficient management.

By Soviet standards, it was a relatively outspoken congress.

The Polish Government is encouraging these critical comments because it wants to show that the new unions created after the banning of Solidarity are not just the poodles of the authorities. At the same time the unions have threatened a split in the World Chess Federation.

Fide chief wins bitter fight

From Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Dubai

After a bitter behind-the-scenes struggle, Professor Lincoln Lucena, the Brazilian candidate for the presidency of the World Chess Federation (Fide), has conceded victory to his opponent, Mr Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines. Mr Campomanes, first elected in 1982, will now hold the post for another four years.

It had become clear by last Wednesday, when Dr Nikolai Krogius announced that the influential Soviet Chess Federation was throwing its weight firmly behind Mr Campomanes, that Professor Lucena's position was no longer tenable.

In admitting defeat on Saturday morning without a vote, Senator Lucena strove, in his own words, "to avoid an exacerbation of the conflicts within Fide which might have threatened a split in the World Chess Federation".

With Dubai as host, Professor Lucena had to struggle

against fearsome odds. At a press conference on November 19, Mr Ahmed Abdullah Abu Hussein, the General Secretary of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport in the United Arab Emirates, announced: "Dubai and the Olympic Organizing Committee confirmed at the opening of the Olympiad that they clearly supported Campomanes for re-election as Fide president."

To emphasize this, the Dubai Olympiad hosts spent about £700,000 on international air tickets. Officially these tickets were intended for "delegations not able to finance their air ticket costs to attend the Olympiad".

However, publication of the full list of recipients of this largesse elicited surprise, containing as it did the federations of Spain, Greece, Italy — all prominent Campomanes supporters — but excluding the much poorer federations of, for example, Bermuda and Zimbabwe. Sixty-seven of the federation's 125 members have benefited. Ironically, it was from Du-

bai in February 1985 that Mr Campomanes set off to Moscow to terminate the notorious first Karpov-Kasparov match. Now, also in Dubai, a powerful players' association has arisen from the ashes of the Lucena campaign headed by Gary Kasparov, the Soviet world champion and Mr Campomanes's fiercest critic, to safeguard top players' interests and keep a firm watch on the Fide leadership.

After 13 rounds of the Olympiad here, the US leads, with 36½ points ahead of the Soviet Union on 36 and England 35½. The England team is already assured of the bronze medal when the result of today's 14th and final round are known. Nevertheless, a final sprint might even achieve the gold or silver medals for our players.

The three leading teams in Dubai have dominated the Olympiad, and whatever the final placing of the England squad, their performance was fully in the class of their team silver medal from the Salonika Olympics of 1984.

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Taiwan bars return of dissident leader from US to fight elections

From Robert Grieser, Taipei

A Taiwanese political dissident failed yesterday in his attempt to return to the island from his self-imposed exile in the United States in time for legislative elections scheduled for December 6.

Mr Hsu Hsin-liang, aged 40, and his 23-member entourage were refused permission to board a Cathay Pacific Airlines flight from Tokyo to Taipei because they did not have proper entry visas. Mr Hsu faced sedition charges stemming from political riots that took place in 1979.

Mr Ramsey Clark, former US Attorney-General who was to accompany Mr Hsu to Taipei, stayed in Tokyo with Mr Hsu to see if he and his supporters could board another plane today. However, several of Mr Hsu's supporters did return to Taipei last night. Meanwhile, some 300 Taiwanese police clashed with 2,000 supporters of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party in a series of confrontations yesterday on an access road leading to Taipei's Chiang Kai-shek airport.

Seven demonstrators were injured and one policeman was hurt in the clashes. The demonstrators threw stones at the police, who responded to

the first attacks with water cannon and to two further attacks later in the day with tear gas. Helicopters circled over the airport. In addition, a dozen armoured personnel carriers, with mounted machine-guns, patrolled the airport perimeter.



Mr Hsu facing a press conference in Tokyo.

In a related development, the flag of the ruling Kuomintang was burnt and a pig was slaughtered at an opposition election rally in the southern city of Kaohsiung.

Dr You Qing, a spokesman for the DPP, admitted at a press conference yesterday that Mr Hsu's attempt to return to Taiwan could create problems for the fledgling party, the first to oppose the ruling Kuomintang in 37 years.

"Mr Hsu decided for himself to return," Dr You said. "He isn't formally a member of the party, but we believe it is the right of all citizens to be able to return to their country."

At a government news conference yesterday, General Meng Chao-shi, the commander of the airport police, said that two weeks ago the Government had informed all airlines that might bring Mr Hsu to Taiwan that they would be doing so at their own risk.

General Meng also said that, while the Government sympathized with the political opposition, demonstrators had not secured a legal permit to stage their protest.



Dressed as Boer commandos, above, leaders of the extreme right-wing AWB arrive to pledge themselves to a fight for white rule while, below, the khaki-clad youth brigade stands to attention with flags grasped in hand as Mr Terre-Blanche delivers a speech to the rally.



Afrikaners renew 'pact with God' to keep white rule

From Michael Hornsby, Krugersdorp

In a solemn ceremony of psalm-singing and Bible readings, some 3,000 Afrikaners, undeterred by pouring rain, gathered at the foot of a sandstone obelisk here at the weekend to renew "a covenant with God" to preserve a white Afrikaner state in South Africa.

The rally was organized by the neo-fascist Afrikaner-Weerstandsbeweging (Afrikaner Resistance Movement or AWB), which has become the most potent extra-parliamentary voice of extremist white resistance to any form of political accommodation with South Africa's black majority.

The *saamkomsot*, as it was held at the Paardekraal Monument on the outskirts of this town named after Paul Kruger, who pitted his Transvaal Republic against the might of the British Empire in the Boer War of 1899-1902.

The AWB leader, Mr Eugene Terre-Blanche, and 11 of his colleagues, dressed as Boer War commandos, rode to the rally on horseback from Pretoria, 30 miles away.

Their arrival was greeted by thunderous chants of "Ah Vay Ray", the group's initials in Afrikaans which packs a satisfying alliterative punch, and mass waving of the organization's swastika-like flag of red, white and black.

Earlier, there were cheers as a horse-drawn carriage unloaded a number of people dressed in period costume, intended to represent Kruger and other famous figures of Boer history.

"The Afrikaners are the chosen people of the world," the bearded Mr Terre-Blanche, a poet, playwright and former policeman and presidential bodyguard, told the crowd. "Because we have made this covenant, we have no choice but to fight. We will rule this country in His Name."

"They are not going to sell us out so cheaply this time."

This is going to be the day when people remember that they stood up and said they would not be sold out," he declared in an apparent reference to those who surrendered to the British in 1902.

Mr Terre-Blanche, playing on Boer War memories, recalling the "27,000 women and children" who died in British refugee camps, which officials called "concentration camps", a term that half a century later was to acquire a meaning they could not have foreseen.

Paardekraal was the name of a farm once belonging to Andries Pretorius, one of the most famous voortrekker leaders. Some 6,000 Boers (now known as Afrikaners) gathered there in December 1899 and hoisted the flag of the Transvaal Republic. They swore to restore the independence of the Transvaal, which had been annexed by the British three years earlier, and built a cairn of stones, a symbol of unity, on the spot to commemorate the occasion.

The Boers won a number of battles against the British and the Transvaal was given back a large measure of self-rule. In 1891 the obelisk was erected over the cairn as a permanent memorial.

It is said that during the war of 1899-1902, the British removed the stones from the base of the monument and threw them into the Vaal River. "Our enemy knew that without our unity, we were nothing," Mr Terre-Blanche said, recalling the incident.

To an audience steeped in Boer history, he did not have to spell out the meaning of his allegory — President P.W. Botha is destroying Afrikaner unity by giving in to foreign pressure to grant political rights to blacks. In so doing he is reneging on the covenant with God, which the Afrikaner people, according to nationalist mythology, entered into after the "miracle" of their victory over the Zulus at the 1838 Battle of Blood River.

Pretoria pursues policy of forced resettlement

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

Pretoria is taking advantage of the state of emergency declared on June 12 to pursue a campaign of forced resettlement of blacks by stealth and intimidation, political opponents say.

"It is the most discreet piece of social engineering yet undertaken by the Government," according to Mr Andrew Savage, the anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party's MP for the Walmer constituency in Port Elizabeth, in the Eastern Cape.

It is estimated that as many as 80,000 people have been moved, are being moved, or are under threat of being moved so as to increase the distance between black townships and residential areas reserved by law for whites.

The Government, which pledged in February 1985 that all forced removals would be stopped, contends that black residents are moved only after they have given their consent. This, however, is not the impression of independent monitoring groups.

Firstly, Pretoria's idea of "consultation" usually involves talking to a few co-operative black councillors, who are offered financial inducements to move and are then held to have spoken for the rest of their communities.

In addition, since the emergency, thousands of political activists have been thrown into jail, weakening the ability

of black communities to organize resistance.

The biggest removal since the emergency was declared occurred in the Eastern Cape where some 40,000 people were shifted from Langa and other black townships on the doorstep of "white" Uitenhage.

A concrete fence has been built around part of Soweto, and its 1.5 million people have dubbed it the "Berlin Wall" (Our Own Correspondent writes from Johannesburg).

There are already barbed-wire entanglements around Zwarte, KwaZakhele and New Brighton, black townships near Port Elizabeth.

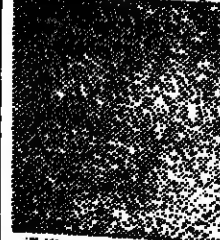
enhance to a sprawling temporary tent camp some miles away. Such was the eagerness of the authorities to exploit the disarray in black communities that they did not wait for completion of even the minimal facilities of resettlement sites.

At least eight other black communities in the Cape are threatened with removal. In Transvaal, the 10,000 remaining black residents of Oukasie, outside the industrial town of Brits, are also fighting a rearguard action against eviction.

Oukasie (an abbreviation of the Afrikaans for Old Location) is seen as the most clear-cut test case of the Government's intentions.

How many pregnant women are you responsible for?

Statutory Maternity Pay



Statutory Maternity Pay is a new maternity scheme for employees.

It will replace the existing maternity pay scheme run by the Department of Employment, and maternity allowance paid by the DHSS.

Employers will be responsible for paying Statutory Maternity Pay to their employees, but they will be able to recover the amounts they pay out in full. The new scheme starts from April 6th 1987 for women whose babies are due from June 21st 1987.

An Employer's Guide to Statutory Maternity Pay

will be sent to you soon. It will tell you who is eligible for Statutory Maternity Pay and how you, the employer, must operate the scheme.

You will need the Guide to help you prepare for the introduction of Statutory Maternity Pay. So if, as an employer, you haven't received it by December 15th, please ask for it at your social security office or write to: DHSS Leaflets Unit, PO Box 21, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 1AY.

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British Gas plc

Share Offer

by

N M Rothschild & Sons Limited

on behalf of

The Secretary of State for Energy

Under offers in the United Kingdom,

the United States, Canada, Japan and Europe

4,025,500,000 Ordinary Shares are to be sold

at 135p per share payable in instalments of 50p now,

45p on 9th June, 1987 and 40p on 19th April, 1988.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital, issued and to be issued, of the Company, to be admitted to the Official List. The following information should be read in conjunction with the full text of the Listing Particulars dated 21st November, 1986 relating to British Gas plc, copies of which are available at British Gas showrooms, clearing bank branches and post offices. You are advised to read the Listing Particulars before returning your application form.

APPLICATION AND INSTALMENT ARRANGEMENTS

(a) **Applications**
Applications must be received by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 3rd December, 1986 (or before close of business on Tuesday, 2nd December, 1986, if the form is taken by hand to any U.K. branch of National Westminster Bank PLC, Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank Limited). Photocopies of application forms will not be accepted in any circumstances. The right is reserved to reject, in whole or in part, any application. Once made, applications may not be withdrawn.

(b) **Allocations of shares**
The basis of allocation of the shares is expected to be announced by Monday, 8th December, 1986.

If you are successful, in whole or in part, you will be sent a temporary document of title (a letter of acceptance) for the shares allocated to you.

If there is heavy demand for the shares, you may receive fewer shares than you apply for or, in some cases, none at all.

If your application is not accepted or is only accepted in part, you will receive (without interest) all money paid on application or a refund cheque for the balance of the money paid on application.

(c) **Dealings**
It is expected that dealings on The Stock Exchange will commence at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 8th December, 1986. Letters of acceptance are expected to be sent to successful applicants on Monday, 15th December, 1986. Applicants who deal before receipt of a letter of acceptance will do so at their own risk. You should also note that some dealers in shares may insist on seeing your letter of acceptance before purchasing your shares.

You will not be liable for stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax on your application for shares. If you sell your shares, the purchaser will be liable to pay any stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax.

(d) **Further instalments**
You will be sent reminders in advance of the dates when the second and third instalments become payable. At the time the reminder is sent for the second instalment (due by 9th June, 1987) you will also be sent an Intention Certificate to replace the letter of acceptance despatched following the Offer. After you have paid your final instalment (due by 19th April, 1988) you will be sent your final share certificate. If you do not pay any instalments for which you are liable, your right to the shares may be cancelled. If you sell your shares, the purchaser will become liable for any further instalments due (once the transfer has been registered).

SPECIAL INCENTIVES

If you apply for shares in the Offer, you may be eligible to receive from the Government, free of charge, EITHER vouchers for use against gas bills from British Gas OR a share bonus. The special incentives are only available if you buy shares in the Offer and not if they are bought subsequently.

(a) **Eligibility**
To be eligible to apply for these special incentives, you must be an individual investing solely for your own benefit (or investing jointly with not more than three other individuals, solely for the benefit of one or more of them). Applications made by individuals on behalf of children may also qualify for the special incentives. Companies, partnerships, firms, trusts, associations and clubs are not eligible for these special incentives but they may apply as nominees for eligible individuals.

(b) **Bill vouchers**
For every whole multiple of 100 shares you buy in the Offer and hold continuously until certain qualifying dates, you can receive £10 worth of vouchers (up to a maximum entitlement of £250). The way in which the voucher scheme will work is illustrated in the table below:

ENTITLEMENT TO VOUCHERS ON THE QUALIFYING DATES						
Number of shares held continuously	30th June 1987	31st Dec 1987	30th June 1988	31st Dec 1988	30th June 1989	Total
100	£10	—	—	—	—	£10
200	£20	—	—	—	—	£20
300	£30	—	—	—	—	£30
400	£40	—	—	—	—	£40
500	£40	£10	—	—	—	£50
600	£40	£20	—	—	—	£60
700	£40	£30	—	—	—	£70
800	£40	£40	—	—	—	£80
900	£40	£40	£10	—	—	£90
1,000	£40	£40	£20	—	—	£100
1,500	£40	£40	£40	£30	—	£150
2,000	£40	£40	£40	£40	£30	£200
2,500 or more	£40	£40	£40	£40	£50	£250

EXAMPLE: If you receive 500 shares in the Offer you will be entitled to a voucher of £40 on 30th June, 1987 and a voucher of £10 on 31st December, 1987, provided you hold the shares until 31st December, 1987. If you only hold the shares until, say November 1987, you will only be entitled to a voucher of £40.

On each qualifying date you will be entitled to one voucher, worth £10 for every whole multiple of 100 shares bought in the Offer and held continuously until then, less the value of the vouchers already received. However, the maximum voucher value on any qualifying date will be £40 (£50 on the last qualifying date).

The voucher will be posted to you about two weeks after each qualifying date.

Your vouchers can be used when making any payment due to British Gas, if that payment includes charges for gas supplied (or standing charges) for your use or benefit in your home. Details of these arrangements will be issued with the vouchers.

(c) **Share bonus**
You will be entitled to one additional share for every ten shares which you buy in the Offer and continue to hold up to and including 31st December, 1989. The maximum number of additional shares you can receive is 500. There will be no right to receive fractions of shares.

The additional shares will be transferred to you as soon as reasonably practicable after 31st December, 1989 (together with all rights attaching to those shares at the date of transfer). The 4% stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax on or in respect of the transfer will be met by the Government.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Acceptance of applications will be conditional on (i) the Ordinary Shares, issued and to be issued, being admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange not later than 31st December, 1986, and (ii) the provisions relating to termination of the U.K. Underwriting Agreement referred to in Part C of Section VII of the full Prospectus dated 21st November, 1986, comprising the listing particulars relating to British Gas plc (the "Prospectus") not being implemented. Application money will be returned (without interest) if either of these conditions is not satisfied and, in the meantime, if payment for the shares is made by a receiving bank in a separate account. Rights are reserved for the Secretary of State and his agents to present for payment and otherwise process all cheques and bankers' drafts received and to have full access to all information relating to, or deriving from, such cheques, bankers' drafts and the processing thereof. The right is also reserved to treat as valid any application not in all respects completed in accordance with the instructions accompanying the relevant application form.

2. Acceptance of an application by an eligible investor who has elected for the share bonus or the bill vouchers will entitle that investor to the share bonus or bill vouchers (as the case may be) on the terms, and subject to the conditions, set out in Section VIII of the Prospectus.

3. A valid application made by or on behalf of a person who is eligible for the Customer Share Scheme on a green customer application form delivered to that person by or on behalf of the British Gas Share Information Office will, subject to these terms and conditions, be accepted to the extent described in paragraph 2(b) of Part A of Section IX of the Prospectus.

4. By completing and delivering an application form, you:

(i) offer to purchase from the Secretary of State the number of Ordinary Shares specified in your application form (or, if smaller, number for which the application is accepted) on the terms of, and subject to, the conditions set out in the Prospectus and the Instalment Agreement (and, in due course, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company) and agree to become a party to and be bound by all relevant provisions of the Instalment Agreement;

(ii) as a collateral contract between you and the Secretary of State which will become binding on despatch to or receipt by a receiving bank of your application and in consideration of the Secretary of State agreeing that he will not, prior to 1st January, 1987, offer any of the Ordinary Shares to any person other than by means of one of the procedures referred to in the Prospectus;

(iii) warrant that your application cannot be revoked prior to 1st January, 1987; and

(iv) warrant that your acceptance will be honoured on first presentation and agree that any letter of acceptance and any moneys returnable may be held pending clearance of your payment;

(v) if you complete a box to apply for bill vouchers or the share bonus) thereby:

(i) warrant that you are eligible to do so in accordance with the provisions set out in Part A of Section VIII of the Prospectus;

(ii) agree that, if you elect for bill vouchers, you will comply with the conditions of use thereof set out in paragraph 1(b) of Part B of Section VIII of the Prospectus; and

(iii) agree that, if you complete both boxes, you will be deemed to have elected for the share bonus only;

(d) if you make an application under the Customer Share Scheme) thereby warrant that:

(i) you, or if you are a nominee, all persons for whom benefit the application is made, are eligible for the Customer Share Scheme in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 2(a) of Part A of Section IX of the Prospectus; and

(ii) so far as you are aware, no other application has been made under the Customer Share Scheme in respect of the same separately metered gas supply as that in respect of which your application is made;

(e) declare that you are not a U.S. or Canadian person and you are not applying on behalf of any such person, "U.S. or Canadian person" having the meaning set out in paragraph 4 of Part A of Section IX of the Prospectus;

(f) agree that all applications, acceptances of applications and contracts resulting therefrom under this Offer shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England;

(g) warrant that:

(i) if this application is made for your own benefit) no other application is being made for your benefit by you or by anyone applying as your agent or, so far as you are aware, by any other person;

(ii) if the application is made by you as agent for or for the benefit of another person) no other application for the benefit of that person is being made by you or, so far as you are aware, by that person or by any other person; and

(iii) if you sign the application form as agent for someone else, you have due authority to do so on behalf of that person;

(h) agree that, in respect of those Ordinary Shares for which your application has been received and processed and is not rejected, acceptance of your application shall be deemed, at the election of the Secretary of State, either (i) by notification to The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case such acceptance shall be on that basis) or (ii) by notification of acceptance thereof to the relevant receiving bank;

(i) authorise the relevant receiving bank and the Custodian Bank to send a letter of acceptance for the number of Ordinary Shares for which your application is accepted and/or a cheque (or, if smaller, number for which the application is accepted) to the person (or the first-named person) named in the application form and to procure that your name (and the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) is placed on the register of holders of interim rights in respect of such Ordinary Shares the entitlement to which has not been effectively renounced and hereafter to procure that your name (and the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) is placed on the register of members of the Company in respect of such Ordinary Shares the entitlement to which is evidenced by Interim Certificates and the right to which has not been effectively transferred; and in these terms and conditions, references to rights being effectively renounced mean the renouncement(s) being registered by a receiving bank in relation to such rights;

(j) agree that all documents in connection with the share bonus or bill voucher arrangements may be sent by post at your risk to the person (or, in the case of joint applicants, the first person) named in the application form to his or her address set out therein or such other address as may from time to time appear in the register of holders of interim rights or the register of members of the Company against the name of such person;

(k) agree that time of payment by you shall be of the essence of each contract constituted by acceptance of your application and undertake to pay the second instalment by, and for value not later than, 3 p.m. on 9th June, 1987 and the final instalment by, and for value not later than, 3 p.m. on 19th April, 1988 for the Ordinary Shares in respect of which your application is accepted and the right to which has not been effectively renounced or transferred in accordance with the Instalment Agreement by you prior to the relevant time and date;

(l) agree that, without prejudice to any other rights to which you may be entitled, you will not be entitled to exercise any remedy of rescission for innocent misrepresentation at any time after acceptance of your application; and

(m) confirm that, in making your application, you are not relying on any information or representation in relation to British Gas or the Offer other than information and representations contained in the Prospectus or in the mini prospectus published in connection with the Offer taken together with the Prospectus (the "Prospectus") and accordingly you agree that no person responsible for the Prospectus shall have any liability for any such information or representation other than as aforesaid.

No person receiving this application form in any territory other than the U.K., the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man may treat it as constituting an invitation to him or her, nor should he or she in any event use it, unless in the relevant territory such an invitation could lawfully be made to him or her without compliance with any applicable registration or other legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the U.K., the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man receiving this application form and wishing to make an application hereunder to satisfy himself or herself as to full observance of the laws of the relevant territory and to pay any transfer or other taxes requiring to be paid in such territory in respect of the shares acquired by him or her under this Offer.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURN OF YOUR APPLICATION FORM

SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM BY POST (OR DELIVER IT BY HAND) TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 1986 at the appropriate address below according to the first letter of your surname (or corporate name) inserted in Box 1.

A to C Bank of Scotland
New Issues Department,
Apex House,
9 Haddington Place,
Edinburgh EH7 4AL
or, by hand only to
38 Threadneedle Street,
London EC2.

C to F Barclays Bank PLC
New Issues,
P.O. Box 123,
Fleetway House,
25 Farringdon Street,
London EC4A 4HD.
or, by hand only to
38 Threadneedle Street,
London EC2.

G to J Lloyd's Bank PLC
Registrar's Department,
Goring-by-Sea, Worthing,
West Sussex BN12 6DA
or, by hand only to
Registrar's Department,
Issue Section,
11 Bishopsgate,
London EC2.

K to M Midland Bank plc
Stock Exchange Services
Department,
Mariner House,
Peeps Street,
London EC3N 4DA.

N to S National Westminster
Bank PLC
New Issues Department,
P.O. Box 79,
1 Finsbury Square,
London EC2P 2BD.

S to Z The Royal Bank of
Scotland plc
Registrar's Department,
P.O. Box 435,
8 Bankhead Crossway North,
Edinburgh EH11 4BR
or, by hand only to
New Issues Department,
24 Lombard Street,
London EC3.

USE FIRST CLASS POST AND ALLOW AT LEAST TWO DAYS FOR DELIVERY

OR TAKE THIS FORM BY HAND TO
ARRIVE BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON
TUESDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 1986
at any U.K. branch of National Westminster Bank PLC,
Bank of Scotland, or Ulster Bank Limited.

Additional receiving centres are open for deliveries by hand until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 3rd December, 1986. These are set out on the back of the application form in the mini prospectus and in the Listing Particulars.

GUIDE ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

If you wish to apply under the Customer Share Scheme, you must complete the GREEN FORM sent to you by the British Gas Share Information Office. Or, if you have received a personalised ORANGE FORM, you should complete that form. Otherwise, please use the APPLICATION FORM below. ONLY ONE APPLICATION MAY BE MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY PERSON.

Put in Box 1 your full name and address (please use block capitals).

Applications must not be made by anyone under 18, but a parent, grandparent or guardian of a child under 18 may apply for the benefit of that child. To do this, you should put your own name in Box 1, and after your surname write "A/C" followed by the full names of the child. You are not thereby precluded from making a single application for your own benefit.

If you wish to apply jointly with another adult, see Note 7.

Put in Box 2 (in figures) the number of shares for which you are applying. You may only apply for one of the numbers of shares set out below. Applications for any other number of shares will be rejected.

Number of shares you are applying for	Amount you pay now (50p per share)	Your total investment (135p per share)	Number of shares you are applying for	Amount you pay now (50p per share)	Your total investment (135p per share)
100	£50	£135	1,000	£500	£1,350
200	£100	£270	1,500	£750	£2,025
300	£150	£405	2,000	£1,000	£2,700
400	£200	£540	2,500	£1,250	£3,375
500	£250	£675	3,000	£1,500	£4,050
600	£300	£810	3,500	£1,750	£4,725
700	£350	£945	4,000	£2,000	£5,400
800	£400	£1,080	4,500	£2,250	£6,075
900	£450	£1,215	5,000	£2,500	£6,750

Above 5,000 shares, applications must be in the following denominations:

Applications	Multiples of
5,000 to 10,000 shares	1,000 shares
10,000 to 50,000 shares	5,000 shares
50,000 to 100,000 shares	10,000 shares
over 100,000 shares	50,000 shares

Using the table in Note 2, put in Box 3 (in figures) the amount you pay now.
Payment is in three instalments. The second instalment of 45p per share is payable by 3 p.m. on 9th June, 1987 and the final instalment of 40p per share by 3 p.m. on 19th April, 1988.

For bill vouchers, put "YES" in Box 4. For the share bonus, put "YES" in Box 5. COMPLETE ONE BOX ONLY.

If you complete both boxes you will be deemed to have applied for the share bonus only. If you do not complete either box, you will not receive bill vouchers or the share bonus. Before making your choice, you should read the details of the special incentives set out opposite.

Once the application form is submitted your choice may not be changed.

Sign and date the form in Box 5.

The application form may be signed by someone else on your behalf if he is duly authorised to do so, but he must enclose his power of attorney.

A corporation must sign under the hand of a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

WARNING
Only one application may be made for the benefit of any person. Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising more than one application for the benefit of any person.

Put in Box 6 a cheque or bankers' draft for the exact amount you have entered in Box 3. Your cheque or bankers' draft must be made payable to "British Gas Share Offer". Please ensure that it is crossed and write on it "Not Negotiable".

Your payment must relate solely to this application. No receipt will be issued.

Your cheque or bankers' draft must be drawn in sterling on an account at a bank branch in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and must bear a United Kingdom bank sort code number in the top right hand corner. If you do not have a cheque account, you can obtain a cheque from your building society or a bank branch.

An application may be accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant(s), but any moneys returned will be sent by cheque crossed "Not Negotiable A/C Payee Only" in favour of the applicant(s).

JOINT APPLICANTS

You may apply jointly with up to three other people, provided each applicant is aged 18 or over. They should complete and sign Box 7.

Power(s) of attorney must be enclosed if anyone is signing on behalf of any joint applicant(s).

British Gas plc

PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

To The Secretary of State for Energy · National Westminster Bank PLC
N M Rothschild & Sons Limited · British Gas plc

Before completing this form, please read carefully the accompanying guide.

PLEASE WRITE BLOCK CAPITALS

Mr, Mrs, Miss or title Forename(s) (in full)

Surname

Address

Post code

I/We offer to purchase

Ordinary Shares

in British Gas plc on and subject to the Terms and Conditions set out on this page and in the Prospectus comprising the Listing Particulars dated 21st November, 1986

and I/we attach a cheque or bankers' draft for the amount now payable of

£

I/We wish to receive

Bill vouchers

Share bonus

A or B PLEASE WRITE "YES" IN ONE BOX ONLY

I declare that to my knowledge this is the only application made for my benefit (or that of the person(s) for whose benefit I am applying).

Date Signature

Pin here your cheque/bankers' draft for the amount in Box 3, payable to "British Gas Share Offer" and crossed "Not Negotiable".

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Mr, Mrs, Miss or title	Forename(s) (in full)	Surname	Signature
2nd joint applicant			
3rd joint applicant			
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Second thoughts on 1963 pledge

[illegible]

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How Reagan's men dealt with the ayatollahs

When the President's national security advisers decided to bargain for the freedom of the American hostages captured in Beirut, they contacted the Israeli prime minister — who in turn sought help from a veteran of his secret service. Tom Bower describes how Yaacov Nimrodi came out of retirement to set in motion the arms deal with Iran that has already led to White House resignations

Yaacov Nimrodi, Mossad's legendary master-spy in Tehran for 14 years, was proud when in March 1985 he was summoned by his good friend Shimon Peres, Israel's prime minister, to undertake a top-secret mission for the United States government. Returning from the cold into the heart of a major operation is the dream of most retired intelligence operators, and the 60-year-old Nimrodi was no exception.

Famed for his outstanding contacts with Iranians, the millionaire son of Iraqi immigrants believed he was a natural choice to help both his country and the leader of its closest ally, President Reagan. Between 1956 and 1970, Nimrodi had developed a spectacular Mossad network which, based in Tehran, had penetrated the inner sanctums of Israel's hostile Arab neighbours.

In parallel, Nimrodi had used his fluent Farsi to negotiate Israel's huge arms sales to Iran. "I was in partnership with the Shah," he tells friends. After the Ayatollah's return in 1979, Nimrodi had been urging the need to overthrow the Islamic fanatics who had deposed his friend.

But when Nimrodi and Peres met to discuss the new mission, neither suspected that their actions would help plunge the Reagan presidency into crisis. Since "frustrate" exploded, Nimrodi has claimed to be the helpless victim of power brokers in both Jerusalem and Washington who, after exploiting his talent, his experience and his trust, have now cast him as a ruthless arms dealer who pocketed at least \$10 million of missing profit from the deal. The truth, he claims, is very different.

Peres' brief to Nimrodi was simple. President Reagan, sensitive to the pleas of the helpless families of the American hostages in Beirut, was anxious for any help that might secure their release. Nimrodi's task was to find an Iranian in western Europe with close connections to the Ayatollah's regime who could secure that objective.

After a series of discreet telephone calls, Nimrodi arrived in Geneva in May 1985. There he met an old acquaintance, the Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. One week after that meeting, Khashoggi contacted Nimrodi to tell him that a

rendezvous had been arranged at the Hilton Hotel in Geneva. There he was to meet Manucher Ghorbanifar, an Iranian whom Nimrodi had known 10 years earlier as an officer in the Savak, the Shah's secret police.

At the meeting, Ghorbanifar described himself as a deputy to Hussein Moussavi, the Iranian prime minister. Told that the Americans wanted the hostages' release, Ghorbanifar promised he would pass the message on to Tehran but, not unexpectedly, indicated that there would be a price for Iranian help.

Immersed for six years in a war of attrition with neighbouring Iraq, Iran's army was in desperate need of weapons which it had been denied by Washington's blanket embargo. Heading Iran's billion-dollar shopping list were TOW anti-tank missiles. Ghorbanifar suggested to Nimrodi that his efforts to persuade his boss to help America would be smoothed by a gift of such missiles to Iran.

Ghorbanifar then suggested that the first hostage to be released might be William Buckley, the CIA's station chief in Beirut, who had been kidnapped in March 1984 by the Islamic Jihad and of whom nothing had thereafter been heard.

Five days later, Ghorbanifar telephoned Nimrodi, identifying himself with an agreed codename: "Askari". Cryptically, "Askari" suggested that another meeting would be fruitful. Although early reports placed that meeting in London, other sources suggest that the venue was the luxurious Hotel George V in Paris.

Since it was now probable that proper negotiations would start, Nimrodi arrived at the end of April accompanied by three others. Leading the Israelis was David Kimche, the brilliant South African-born director of the Israeli foreign office and former deputy chief of Mossad. In his frequent visits to Washington, Kimche had long urged senior American officials and politicians to recognize the catastrophic loss to the West of Iran as an ally. His solution was for the West to search for and support moderate Iranians who could be encouraged to topple the Ayatollahs. Many believe him to be the architect of Israel's policy, which started in 1980, of making secret arms supplies to such moderates.

The second Israeli was Al

Schwimmer, a founder of the Israeli aircraft industry, a lifelong friend and business associate of Nimrodi and also a close friend of Shimon Peres.

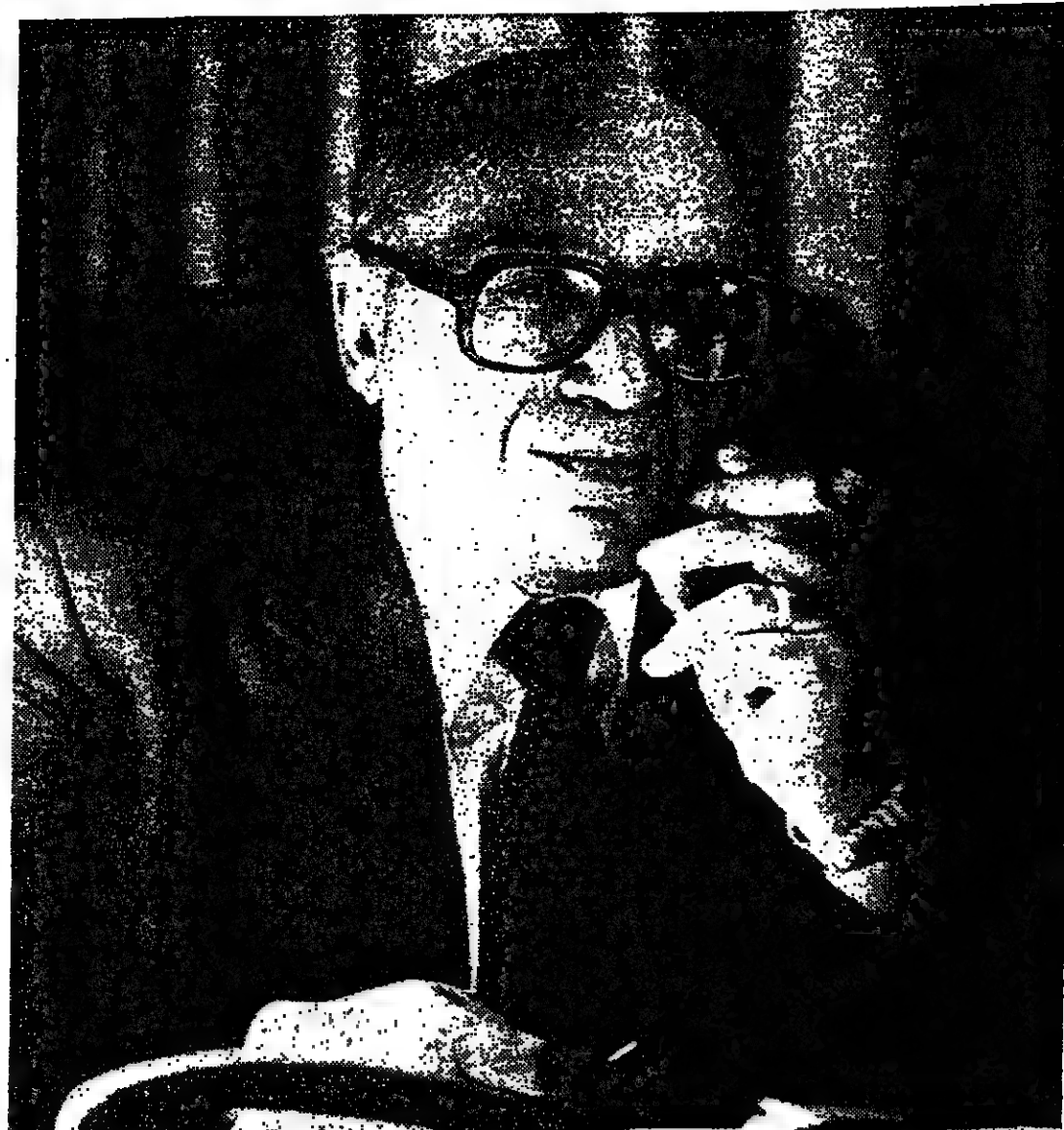
At the original meeting in March in Peres' office, it had been decided that while Nimrodi would search for the Iranian go-between, Kimche and Schwimmer would deal with the Americans, who were represented in Paris by Michael Ledeen, an academic specializing in counter-terrorism who had been hired as a "consultant" to the National Security Council by Kimche's key contact, the then National Security Adviser, Robert McFarlane.

Ensnared in the White House basement, Ledeen had become a close associate of Lt-Colonel Oliver North, the NSC's deputy director for political-military affairs — whose resignation was to follow last week's revelations. The author of a widely acclaimed insiders' investigation into the Shah's fall, Ledeen had persistently urged successive National Security Advisers to develop a better relationship with the Ayatollahs. Yet many senior officials in Washington had become highly suspicious of him, following the exposure by the *Wall Street Journal* of a highly dubious business escapade which had resulted in the imprisonment of his Italian partner.

During the course of their negotiations, mutual suspicions arose between Nimrodi and Schwimmer on one hand and Ledeen on the other over the conduct of the deal, gradually developing into acrimony. At the outset, though, their relationship seemed amicable.

During the four-hour meeting Ghorbanifar promised that the Iranian prime minister would arrange the release of "the important one", as Buckley had become known, in exchange for one plane-load of TOW missiles. Mindful of Washington's arms embargo, the Israelis first tried to persuade Ghorbanifar to accept Israeli 106mm recoilless rifles. His refusal led the Israelis to the belief that Ghorbanifar had told Moussavi that he was dealing with the Americans, not the Israelis.

Frustrated, the four left the hotel and flew to Israel, where the Israelis failed to persuade Peres to



Secret meetings in Geneva, Hamburg and London: "We were pleased to help," Yaacov Nimrodi recalls



Adnan Khashoggi: at Nimrodi's request, he contacted Iran



David Kimche: led Israel's trio of go-between negotiators



Rev Benjamin Weir: released after the shipment of arms

release TOW missiles from Israel's own stocks. While Nimrodi returned to Europe, Kimche, Schwimmer and Ledeen flew to Washington to consult McFarlane.

Until then, the National Security Adviser had suspected that Ghorbanifar was just another of the tricksters who infest the international arms business. But by the time Ledeen arrived in his office, the CIA had submitted a sheet of reports which overwhelmingly confirmed the Iranian's claims. During their meeting in Paris, Ledeen had encouraged Ghorbanifar to consult his master in Tehran by telephone to confirm his negotiating position. Those calls had been tapped by CIA agents, while Ghorbanifar's subsequent movements had been closely monitored. To McFarlane's delight, the Americans, through intermediaries, were indisputably in contact with the heart of the Ayatollah's regime.

According to the Israelis, McFarlane needed no persuasion and volunteered to break the arms embargo by secretly supplying the TOW missiles. The actual

arrangements were delegated to Major-General Richard Secord, a retired US Air Force officer who had become an adviser to North in the supply of weapons to the Contras in Central America.

By August 18, 1985, Secord had arranged for 600 missiles to be made available in Israel for the deal. In the meantime, Schwimmer had arranged the charter of a DC-8 cargo plane — registration number 213889 EPDRI — with two Colombian-born but US-authorized pilots.

The pilots spent two nights in a Tel Aviv apartment provided by Nimrodi. On August 20, about 100 TOWs were flown from Tel Aviv to Tabriz airport, Iran. After the cargo had been unloaded, the DC-8 returned directly to Germany.

To the dismay of the Israelis and Americans, no hostage was released. Suspecting treachery, Nimrodi flew to confront Ghorbanifar at the Vierjahreszeiten Hotel in Hamburg. The Iranian explained that the arrival of the TOWs had completely surprised his government. Apparently, no one in

Tehran had really believed that the Americans would break their own embargo.

Nimrodi insisted that Ghorbanifar phone the prime minister immediately. Ghorbanifar dialled Tehran 667829 and spoke directly to Hussein. After letting them speak for some time, Nimrodi snatched the phone from Ghorbanifar and spoke to Hussein himself. "It was a tense moment," according to an observer in the room.

Exploiting his intimate understanding of Shiite mentality, Nimrodi convinced Hussein — who apparently thought he was speaking to an American — that it was a matter of honour for Iran to fulfil its promise. The result was a promise that in exchange for more TOWs, the "important one" would be released. Money, Nimrodi insists, was never discussed. It was a straight exchange. Both the Israeli and Ghorbanifar flew soon afterwards to Israel, while the Iranians dispatched a team to the Lebanon to arrange the release of one hostage.

On September 14, at the agreed signal from Tehran that an ex-

change had become possible, Ghorbanifar personally accompanied the second shipment of 500 TOWs on the same DC-8.

When the Rev Benjamin Weir, a Presbyterian minister who had been held hostage in Lebanon for more than year, was released that same day instead of Buckley, some Israelis were puzzled. Ledeen, however, told Nimrodi that he was not surprised, claiming that he had known for some time that the CIA agent had been killed.

For both Israeli businessmen, it was the first inkling that they were pawns in a much larger game — that, in fact, the Americans had been conducting parallel negotiations with Ghorbanifar without their knowledge.

But the stakes were already much higher than the Israelis realized. "We were pleased to help the Americans," Nimrodi states, "and we wanted to do more." Their roles in the conspiracy were fast diminishing. A third and much larger arms deal was being assembled by officials in Peres' office, in the basement of the White House and by the CIA. But while negotiations were still delicate, their help was required.

In early December, after lengthy consultations, the original four emissaries again met Ghorbanifar in Hamburg. Their conversation was about further hostage releases. Encouraged by Ghorbanifar's optimistic assurances, Ledeen insisted that all five fly immediately to London to meet "an important team" arriving from Washington.

From the available accounts, that meeting in Nimrodi's small Kensington apartment was viewed by the Americans as "potentially historic" and by some Israelis in retrospect as "bordering on the farcical". Ghorbanifar was introduced to McFarlane, North and Secord. Although he had resigned his post the previous week, McFarlane was visiting London on official business while his associates had travelled across the Atlantic under assumed names.

Following mutual but restrained pleasantries, McFarlane astonished his audience. Ghorbanifar was asked whether all the remaining hostages could be released by Christmas in exchange for more arms — and, more surprisingly, whether McFarlane could meet the Iranian prime minister. His demands, according to the Israelis, betrayed a sense of unreality.

On their return to Israel, Kimche, Nimrodi and Schwimmer were all personally thanked by Peres, who apparently told them that the operation was complete and that future negotiations were to be left to others.

Ledeen claims to have been told on his return to Washington that the operation was over and that, following McFarlane's departure, his services were no longer required — a scenario viewed sceptically by the Israelis, who suspected that Ledeen had struck a private relationship with Ghorbanifar.

Accurate details of subsequent dealings between the US, Israel and Iran have yet to emerge. Nimrodi, however, feels that he has been unjustly tarnished by the scandal. "I worked tirelessly for nine months, using my own money and contacts, without getting anything in return," he claims. Even in retirement, a spy does not enjoy being deceived.

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The critic in the carriage bows out

As BR announces its latest fare rises, Len Dumelow, protector of the passengers, takes his last train home

With immaculately groomed greyish hair, dark tailored suit and his favourite pipe at the ready, Len Dumelow, aged 60, looks like a typically stiff-upper-lip British commuter — the sort of man who would take a cancellation of the 8.23 to Charing Cross or an unexplained half hour delay just outside Hither Green with a perfunctory oath and a philosophical shrug. Even his job title, secretary of the Central Transport Consultative Committee, has to it a bureaucratic and inoffensive ring.

Certainly his fellow passengers, with whom he has collectively travelled three quarters of a million rail miles these past 15 years, would not recognize him as the scourge of British Rail. His retirement this weekend, just as BR announced fare increases averaging 5 per cent and reaching 10 per cent on some provincial routes, could not have been more timely.

"This is the time of year when trains all over the country are running late because the wheels are slipping on fallen leaves," he said as we rolled through Chislehurst on the 3.33 pm train from Tonbridge. "It's a joke. For years British Rail has been experimenting on various cures and you know what they are doing now? They are cutting down the offending trees and replacing them with evergreens. Could you have worked that out? We could — and we told them so years ago."



Watchdog Len Dumelow: "Definite signs of improvement, but still a long way to go"

The words pour out with a refreshing candour from the railway passenger's principal professional watchdog and protector — a man who, ever since he first became secretary of the Scottish Region of the Consultative Committee in 1966, has received his salary from the Department of Trade and Industry and repaid it by being not only a fearless critic of British Rail but also of the successive governments which have employed him.

His final end of term report? "Definite signs of improvement," he says "but with still a long way to go. Back in the 1950s a lot of government money was poured into the railways to modernize the whole system after the war. Even 20 years ago the product BR was offering its passengers was still very good. "With the passage of time there has been little investment, equipment has been ageing and the service has been grinding down with standards falling. The attitude taken by management was that railways were run to suit itself and that passengers were

there merely to fill its trains. "I would say it was about five years ago that BR turned the corner but it will be many years before it gets it right. I am afraid there will always be a job for my successors."

Dumelow, who commutes daily between his home in Rugby and office in London, was chief executive of an organization which is chaired on a part-time basis by Major General Lennox Napier and which collates information from nine regional committees; one each in Scotland and Wales and seven in England. "We try to work in discussion with British Rail but never hesitate to go direct to the Ministry of Transport or, if all else fails, enlist the help of the media," he says. "Our recent successes have included getting British Rail to make restaurant meals available for second class passengers, to improve safety standards on automatic sliding doors, to modernize the timetable enquiry network, to experiment with public telephones on trains and to simplify the fare structure. Do you know, we

discovered not long ago that in Yorkshire there were 23 different types of fares for the same journey in one day? The booking office clerks were completely bemused — and so were the passengers."

The blackspots which still prevail? Dumelow ticks them

off with practised familiarity. "For bad timekeeping, all Liverpool Street commuter routes, particularly the Norwich line. For overcrowding, the Glasgow to Edinburgh service, which is one of the worst in Britain and yet is treated like a Cinderella. For cancellations, the London area peak time commuter services where BR say they constantly have difficulty recruiting staff. But I am afraid that's their problem — it shouldn't be ours."

One thing Dumelow has no difficulty bringing to mind is his own worst experience. "There was snow on the ground — not altogether surprising in the middle of January — and it took my train five hours to stutter its way from London to Rugby," he recalls. "It should have taken one hour, and the final straw was when, long before we got to Rugby, the bar ran out of drink."

William Greaves

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- Casual work (3,3)
 - Satisfy fully (4)
 - Go up (5)
 - Retrieved computer data (4,3)
 - Quivered (8)
 - Sluggish (4)
 - Electronics component (9)
 - Function (4)
 - Not densely (8)
 - 1800 Napoleonic battle (7)
 - Mucous membrane growth (5)
 - Grating noise (4)
 - Demarcated (6)
- DOWN
- Work urge (5)
 - Bulk at (3)
 - Onus probandi (6,2,3)
 - French/German area (4)
 - Promiscuous woman (7)
 - Seaside walk (4)
 - Tissues fluid (5)
 - Southern Israel sort (5)
 - Break suddenly (4)
 - Mosquito disease (7)
 - Narrow brooch (3)

Relieving someone of the fear and pain of cancer is beyond value. But it still has its price.

Dear Sir
Not long ago my wife discovered she had cancer. Naturally, she didn't want to go into hospital, and I was only too willing to care for her at home.
But there was no way I could cope without practical nursing advice and at times emotional support. That help came in the form of one of your Macmillan nurses.
She was more like a close friend than a nurse and her regular visits and ability to cope, helped my wife and I to enjoy our remaining time together.
She brought warmth and strength into a home that could have been filled purely with grief.

There are still many thousands of cancer victims who have to suffer the pain and anxiety of this cruel disease without the care of a Macmillan nurse. But you can begin to ease their pain, simply by sending a donation to Major HCL Garnett CBE, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 15 19 Britten Street, London SW3 3TY. Tel: 01-351 7811.

Cancer Relief
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Helped by the National Society for Cancer Relief (NSCR)

مركز سرطان

Love involves loyalty but loyalty can also be blind to evil. Julia Orange looks behind a deadly and tragic shield at women torn between love and duty

All for the love of a dangerous man

Stand by your man is the stuff of cheap songs and penny romance. But the belief that love is a law unto itself is a romantic notion with horrible consequences when used by a woman like Myra Hindley to explain her years of unswerving, unwavering loyalty to child murderer Ian Brady.

Julie Mugford, the girlfriend of Jeremy Bamber, told police how she was too besotted for her conscience to prick until a month after her boyfriend had gunned down five members of his family. Sharon Bovill, the girlfriend of the M4 rapist John Steed, admitted to police that Steed had confessed his crimes to her as they took place. Not only had she left him free to attack again, but after he was sentenced she wept and shouted: "I'll stand by you."

'As females we are taught to nurture and forgive men'

banner headline that day. Public reaction to women who allow men to get away with murder and rape has been swift, vociferous and in some cases highly vindictive.

"There is scarcely a sex criminal who does not have a revolting worm of a wife or a girlfriend who says she will stand by him," said a columnist in an evening paper last week. He suggested that such women be convicted alongside the criminals and crushed under the full weight of the law's heel.

But such a stand is based on dangerous myths about the nature of such relationships. The first is that any woman living with a

violent criminal is willingly colluding with him, even when the criminal's violence is directed towards herself.

The second myth is that all murderers behave like complete bastards from the moment they get up and eat their breakfast to the minute they lay their mugs on the pillow at night. They might at times be ordinary men, loved by wives, children and mothers for ordinary reasons.

The third and perhaps most 'complacent and debatable' myth is that if any normal person suddenly discovered that someone they loved had committed a terrible crime, they would automatically have the clarity of mind and the courage to march the offender straight to the police.

Yet loyalty (Seneca's definition of the word was "the holiest good in the human heart") is far too simple a word to describe the many motives which bind women to men who are sometimes mad, bad and dangerous to know. So is there something in the female psyche which can be overcome by a disastrous torpor when faced with evil?

Obviously it is naive to assume that all partners of violent criminals are good women who happened to fall into the clutches of evil men. Psychiatrist Robin Skynner says: "There are dark areas of life where women are drawn to men who act out violent impulses which they may not be able to own up to in themselves."

There is also a romantic notion that both glib and intelligent women can fall for — and on which the presses of Mills & Boon grind — which portrays the most attractive men as dangerous but claimable outlaws, who can, like the frog prince, be transformed by



the love of a good woman. When a frog resolutely stays a frog, a woman may find herself trapped in the miasma of his crimes.

Both criminologists and psychiatrists suggest that the reasons why women commit so few violent crimes are linked to the reasons why they handle violence so ineffectively when it is taking place around them. As females we are taught to nurture and forgive men and not to challenge their authority or to judge them, or, if necessary, shoo them to the police.

Criminologist Frances Heidensohn, the author of *Women and Crime*, says:

"Women are still mainly dependent creatures. Their primary goals in life are to maintain themselves and their children. When they find themselves in a relationship that has gone right off the rails, their strongest instinct is to deny what is happening. Because to face up to it is to invite the destruction of their family and their life in the community."

Robin Skynner, in his book *Families and How to Survive Them*, talks of a kind of paralysis that overcomes even trained female therapists when confronted with aggressive men. He says women often "find it terribly difficult to put a man to the test."

It's as if they've been trained from birth to avoid it."

If professionals have difficulty facing up to powerful men, how much more horrifying must it be for a woman locked into a relationship with a man who may have already inflicted violence on her.

Criminologist Susan Edwards, author of *Women On Trial*, has spent three years working with police trying to discover why some women choose to put up with the most atrocious domestic violence rather than go to the police. Her conclusion, echoing Frances Heidensohn, is that women are often too afraid first of the men

themselves and then of the public disgrace.

She says: "It's far too easy to be wise after the event, to say how could she live with him? Why didn't she do something? But if you were the one with a gun at your head, you might decide to shut up too."

Terror may well have been an effective gag for Sharon Bovill, girlfriend of the M4 rapist. One policeman who questioned the 21-year-old girl described her as being "in stark terror of his victims".

Such a state of mind is often, Heidensohn says, exacerbated by fear of negotiating a legal system run largely by male lawyers, judges and police. "Many women have no confidence at all in the police," she says. "They do not have an image of them as protective and gentlemanly. They've heard about how police treat rape victims."

When a woman goes to court to testify against her man, she knows her life can never be the same again, that the popular press will probably beef up all the most sordid and sensational details of her private life and that she may ultimately be judged just as harshly as the criminal himself.

Charmian Brent, the ex-wife of Great Train Robber Ronald Biggs, is still trying to live down the notoriety of being "that man's wife" 20 years after her husband committed his crime.

Brent — who changed her name after divorcing Biggs — spoke to me with much self-loathing of the years when she was "loyal to the point of lunacy to a man I now regard as a complete sham". In a voice drained of all life, she spoke of the time when, with the family still on the run from the police, her seven-year-old son died in a car crash. "While he was

bleeding to death, I was searching the car for incriminating evidence. The funeral was overrun with cops and curious journalists. It was an absolute travesty of a child's funeral."

She also spoke of the double standards — how society often dealt more harshly with the wives and families of criminals than the offenders themselves. "Ron," she said, "is still portrayed in the press as a kind of folk hero — a great lover, a bit of a lad. But the long-term effects on the rest of our family have been completely and utterly disastrous."

She said her sons had been turned down for jobs because they were considered security risks. In 1975, at a time when Ron's romantic escapades were highlighted in the newspapers, her

'Women often find it difficult to put a man to the test'

father — a deeply religious man — committed suicide, on the anniversary of Ron and Charmian's wedding day. "He couldn't stand the shame of constant media exposure any longer."

A continuing penalty for Brent has been an inability to form any significant relationships with other men. "For other men, I'm tainted. I'm associated in their minds with something that isn't nice and might be catching."

"If only I'd had the guts 20 to 30 years ago to admit I'd made an awful mistake, my life would have been very different."

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Come-on lines are an easy turn-off

I was reading, with ever-widening eyes, a magazine article called "The Dumbest Thing I Ever Did for Love" and my thoughts turned to Joyce McKinney, the woman who swore that she would ski down a slope stark naked with a red rose between her teeth for the man she adored.

That was almost the last thing the man she adored required of her. Absolutely the last thing he wanted her to do she did anyway, which was to kidnap him. Men may fantasize about being whisked away by a beautiful blonde but when it happens they are inclined to scream and holler.

The dumbest things that people quoted in the magazine article did included shining up a shoe to whisper poetry outside their beloved's window and setting off the burglar alarm system instead, and deliberately giving the wrong answers in an examination paper so as not to outshine "him". How stupid, how self-defeating, how courageous.

For courage is certainly needed to pin your heart provocatively on your sleeve. A heroine of our time is the woman I know who sent a note to a man attending a public dinner at a hotel. The note requested him to go to room 124 where champagne and a surprise awaited him. The biggest surprise was that instead of an urgent appointment in Sunbury, he actually walked down the corridor to room 124 and he and the wayward woman have been together ever since.

Years later, whenever I am gathered together with female friends, we talk about this astounding incident. Unanimous in our admiration for the lady, we are adamant that we would never dare to emulate her. There are those of us who swear that they would rather die than take the sexual initiative. There are others who claim that, after several stiff gins, they might get so far as to write the note and even have it delivered to their quarry.

But they would be sure to pay a high price for such boldness: the champagne would grow warm as the ice in the silver bucket melted into a puddle, their hair would lose its bounce as the morning's hairdressing appointment became a more and more distant memory and, eventually, all hope gone, they would hang the tag on the hotel-room door, tick-



PENNY PERRICK

ing the box that requested continental breakfast for one. What we never do is exclaim what a wonderful wheeze it was, worth a bookshelf-full of those books full of tips on how to get your man which usually advise you to put perfume behind your knees. (An odd thing to do, unless you dream of finding a latter-day Toulouse-Lautrec.)

We certainly don't plan to try the hotel-room technique for ourselves, even though we may be heavy of heart, pinning away with unrequited love and longing for a piece of the action.

Some primordial conditioning requires us to be the Unattainable She and we shrink from doing whatever the 1986 equivalent of dropping a muslin handkerchief at the loved one's feet may be.

It is a brave and brazen woman who would visit a man bedbound with the flu with a bunch of helium balloons and scads of brand-new gossip, however cheered up he might be by both.

Before ringing up to suggest lunch, we bite on our cuticles for hours, wondering whether it might be considered a come-on, even though all we wish to discuss is a little editorial planning.

I do not know why we think that men will grow full of sound and fury if we wave a pair of theatre tickets in front of their eyes or ask them to a party where they can be sure of drowning in pretty girls, but we are convinced that this will be the case.

Because of our fastidiousness, men who feel poorly remain unvisited with only a curdled slice of prokessed cheese in their prokessed fridge. Or they stay in on Saturday nights, wishing that they were out. A tragic situation, but, if they wish to change it, in spite of these reckless times, it is still up to them to make the first move in the courtship ritual.

It was a brave new concept for the advertising agencies — how would they sell the socially acceptable, health-preserving miracle ingredient Monogamy? It has all the qualities for a successful campaign — fashionable, moral, a positive concept with plenty of opportunity for lyrical escapism. True, they were being asked to succeed in a field where the churches have failed for centuries, but that seemed a relatively modest requirement for the formidable persuasive power of today's hard-sell evangelists, with their access to subtle media tricks — particularly as the AIDS-petried environment is conducive to a bouncelback in meaningful one-on-one relationship situations.

But no. If they weren't exactly wild-eyed with fear at being asked to prepare such an unexpected assault on their own lifestyles, a surprising number of agencies leaped into bewilderment or shock. They listened obligingly to the request, made a few bad taste jokes and then disappeared into endless meetings and lunches or like White Collins Rutherford Scott, returned with dark messages. "We would prefer to keep it to ourselves," they said.

"It's not possible to use advertising to encourage people to be monogamous," asserted David Miller, chairman of Young and Rubicam, who has prepared an Aids warning ad which will be shown tonight on the BBC2 current affairs programme, *Antenna* (8.10pm).

"Young people have been brought up in an environment where monogamy is a very old-fashioned concept. It's like losing the best years of your life. You could run a campaign that encourages them to think very carefully about the risks involved in one-night stands."

David Abbot, aged 48, chairman of Abbott Mead Vickers, who is responsible for jaunty asexual campaigns such as the "Caledonian Girls", was just as gloomy. "There's no product to sell," he claimed. "I'd be inclined to spend the money on safe sex, which is definable, rather than less sex — which is not. You can't sell monogamy until you find someone you want to be monogamous with. It's to do with love, whatever that is."

Of the few macho advertising men who were not appalled at selling "fear" as the unique selling proposition, Sammy Harari, managing director of TBWA, who is masterminding the current £20 million Aids campaign for the DHSS, explained: "Agencies like to feel they could sell anything, but you have to give people a credible and motivating reason to be monogamous — and the possibility of catching Aids is one of the most powerful."

Winston Fletcher, chairman of Delaney Fletcher Delaney, took the challenge seriously. In a couple of days his agency produced four drawings and he explained how the conceptualization of the problem had developed. "We started by promoting Monogamy with the ad that says 'Better Wed than Dead'. But as we got into it, we felt we should be

Prime time for instant monogamy

Young and Rubicam's AIDS warning advert will be shown tonight on BBC2.

The Times asked other agencies how they would sell that most difficult of commodities — old-fashioned fidelity



Susie Henry, of Waldron Allen: "Familiarity breeds content"

One of the lads. "I love you babe." "I love you darling." "I love you honey." "I love you sweets." "I love you Sugar." "I love you doll!"

MONOGAMY You can't sell sex but you can sell love.

Changing the image: "real man" fidelity appeal from GKG

Better wed than dead.

AIDS MAKES CASUAL SEX A SERIOUS AFFAIR.

Warning words: Delaney Fletcher Delaney's first attempt...

advertising fidelity, rather than monogamy, and they are not quite the same thing. So we moved to a second message about the penalties of sleeping around.

"Fidelity isn't a difficult concept to sell, but it's hard to say how it would change the morality of those who are unfaithful. Advertising is powerful, and very good at influencing people to buy a particular brand of baked beans, but its ability to change people's morality has never been tested. How do you establish that the road safety, anti-heroin or anti-smoking campaigns have had much effect?"

to produce two rough ads. "From a creative point of view, it's much easier to sell 'Do this, otherwise you'll die', explained Owen-Jones. "But we felt monogamy should be approached by saying, 'Buy it because it's lovely' rather than 'Buy it — or else'."

According to current thinking you're only a man if you have lots of women, so you have to approach the problem on an emotional level and say "Real men are perfectly happy with one" and make the others seem like insecure little boys. It would be really easy to sell on television. You'd have this Flash Harry in a bar making all these really dumb remarks to all these girls — and play that off against sincerity."

Sincerity, of course, has always been big in advertising, but Susie Henry, aged 33, creative director of Waldron Allen Henry and Thompson, thought the product required a more radical approach. "Monogamy needs a relaunch," she declared. "It's a cracking idea to sell because the time is right for a positive alternative to the AIDS advertisements, which seem as if they should have a skull and crossbones on top. Every time I read one it sends shivers down my spine."

During a thinking lunch, she discussed the main thrusts of a successful campaign. "What problem should it address? Monogamy offers a short-term benefit, but it is a long-term trap. It deprives you of excitement and variety and is boring, so it has all the wrong values for the Eighties. These are hunches," she said sternly. "I have no market research to back them up."

"Now who are we talking to? You've got to catch them young. It's a bit of a minefield. You can't sell stability because that's the last thing young people want. I've addressed my thoughts to the heterosexual community, particularly those under 30 and marrieds thinking about divorce or who have a roving eye."

"What should it achieve? It has to restate the benefits of monogamy in an exciting contemporary way — but most important you have to gain people think they are gaining rather than losing. You needn't say 'One person, one partner — or you'll die of AIDS'. It's much nicer to say that monogamy makes you happier, rather than it makes you healthier. So a good slogan would be, 'It's more fun with one', or 'Familiarity Breeds Content'. You could build on that and show the best parts of family life, with people growing older and getting to know each other."

"As regards marketing activity, it needs royal patronage, the Princess of Wales would be perfect. And there should also be improved tax advantages for married couples, a free marriage licence, some sort of government rent rebate to encourage people to live on their own until they find Mr Right and government-sponsored computer dating with every client guaranteed AIDS tested..."

Monogamy as a vote winner? Combined with money and sincerity it couldn't fail.

Andrew Duncan

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Giving the game away

From Mrs M Mahovic, Moseley, Birmingham.

Penny Perrick is surprised to be invited on her own to various functions (Do Bring The Husband, Monday Page, November 24). This doesn't surprise me in the least.

Every reader of *The Times* should realize from her articles that she was married twice, that her second marriage also came to an end, that one of her offspring is at Oxford, that she takes holidays in Ireland, that she suffered from depression, that she doesn't like being on her own, etc, etc.

TALKBACK

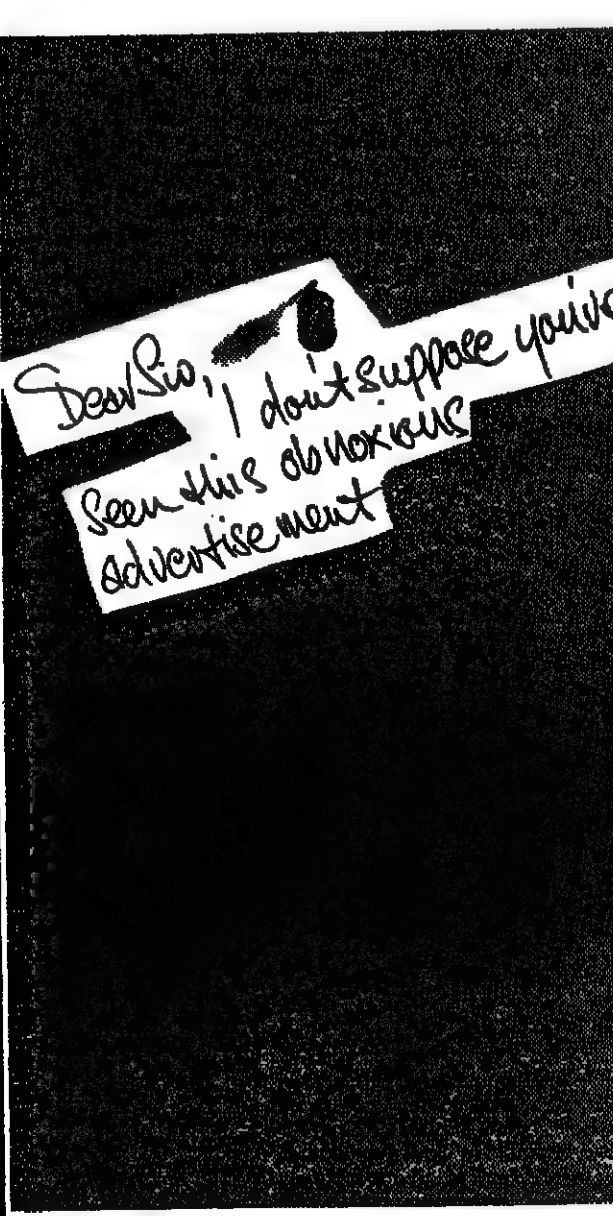
Having received comprehensive information about her circumstances, would it not be tactless to invite a non-existent husband?

This comes from wearing your heart on your sleeve, or should I say, in print!

From Mrs Olga E. Lockley, Winmarleigh, Preston.

I must sincerely thank Gail Penny (Paw for thought, Friday Page, November 21) on behalf of the loving, caring dog she did not buy for her children. With luck it will have found a loving, caring home elsewhere.

Stick to cats, Mrs Penny — no commitments on either side.



Dear Sir, I don't suppose you've seen this obnoxious advertisement?

We welcome complaints from the public about advertisements in the press, on posters and in the cinema. It helps us keep advertising standards high. But we also monitor a considerable amount of advertising, and take the necessary action ourselves.

If you'd like to know more about our work, and receive a copy of the rules, please write.

The Advertising Standards Authority.

We're here to put it right.

ASA Ltd., Dept. A, Brook House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN.

THE TIMES DIARY

Palace show stopper

Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, has just toured Hampton Court Palace to see how repairs are going after the March fire. The visit was not an unqualified success. Accompanied by William Waldegrave, his junior minister, and Lord Maclean, Chief Steward of the Palace, they noted that remedial works in the state rooms had been completed and that the multi-million pound restoration was under way. Perhaps this will now be extended to include a new lift, the existing one breaking down on their way out. It was coaxed to the ground floor where the visitors remained incarcerated for two hours along with several assorted generals who, in line with their calling, offered contradictory strategies on how to get out. Finally they were rescued by the fire brigade.

Overstretched

Barclays' severance of links with South Africa is particularly bad news for the Royal Shakespeare Company in the wake of its principled prevarication over whether to accept a £60,000 grant from the bank. The hard-up thespians can now applaud the ends for which they campaigned, but without the money. A Barclays spokesman tells me the matter of the £60,000 is closed and the grant will not be reoffered.

A British Telecom's advice to "Make that call" obviously does not extend to ringing its own telephone exchanges. All, without exception, are ex-directory.

Unprepared

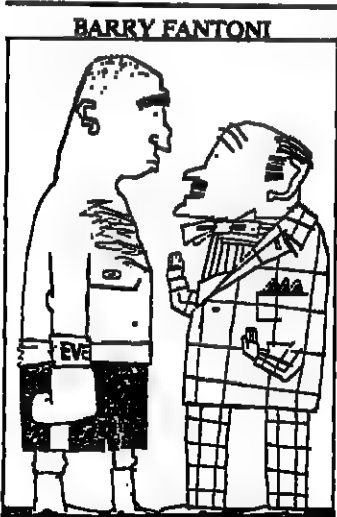
History, as we all know, repeats itself, but seldom so soon after the original event. In his recently published memoirs, General "Dutch" Huyser, President Carter's cloak-and-dagger emissary to pre-revolutionary Iran, says his mission to keep Khomeini from power was sabotaged by rivalries in Washington, in particular by the interference of Zbigniew Brzezinski, the National Security Adviser. Hugh Hanning, who collaborated on the book, says Huyser was so appalled by the fighting that he refused Reagan's subsequent offer of the deputy headship of the NSC. He can have few regrets about his decision to become chief of America's boy scout movement instead.

Budget prices?

Irate Treasury civil servants have concluded that departmental fondness for good husbandry has gone too far. They have been told that prices in their in-house hostelry, the aptly named Treasury Tap, are to be increased from today by 10 per cent — more than three times the rate of inflation. Perhaps the bar manager knows something that we don't.

Steak mountain

Now that the world is awash with too much wheat, Professor Václav Smil of Manitoba University says it would make economic sense to stop growing it and reintroduce the near-extinct buffalo, or bison, to the North American plains. The Indians, he points out, lived on buffalo meat for thousands of years, as did the early European settlers. With a little genetic engineering, he says, the animals could provide a new source of protein-rich meat. Could this be the start of a buffalo meat mountain?



BARRY FANTONI
"I've got a new sparring partner for you, Rocky. He works for Lord Rottschilde!"

Unprivileged

Diplomatic relations lost their familiar cosy quality last week for Claire Enders, daughter of the US ambassador to Spain and high flying executive. Travelling on business from Brussels to Paris, she was taken off the train by French frontier guards who found that her visa had expired. Told that she was to be taken to prison, and then deported under new regulations designed to keep terrorists out of France, she harangued the officials so mercilessly in her fluent and colloquial French that they finally let her go.

Granstand

Somerset Cricket Club is always good for a laugh. In his new history of the club, David Foot tells some amusing tales about the eccentric Sydney Rippon, father of Tory MP Geoffrey. On one occasion he joined the team under assumed name (his grandmother's) as he was officially on sick leave from his job at the Inland Revenue.

PHS

Wright: the CIA approach

by Miles Copeland

One week before it became public knowledge that my old friend Kim Philby was indeed a KGB agent, a London newspaper quoted me as saying I would stake my professional reputation on his being otherwise. That was the last time I will ever stake my "professional reputation", such as it is, on anything.

I will not stake what's left of it now on a negative proposition. But I will say this: none of the senior CIA officials in London while Sir Roger Hollis was head of M15 believed he was anything more reprehensible than an overly cautious professional with a tendency — not unknown in intelligence chiefs — to reject as unimaginable what the "facts" say to be true.

Sir Roger displayed this trait in his interpretation of the Gouzenko affair, the case of the Soviet cypher clerk who defected to the Canadians in 1945. But he was not alone. Many of the Canadians and Americans who knew the details believed Gouzenko to be "too good to be true", as an SIS (M16)

With the possible exception of a planarian worm that has been cut in half both across and lengthways, there can be no creature, animal, vegetable or mineral, so congenitally spineless as the administrative head of a British university. I suppose the filleting process began in the Sixties, but it has gone a great deal further since; by now, if anyone slams a door near a vice-chancellor, he is likely to put his hands up and start reciting the names and ages of his dependent relatives.

When, recently, the government introduced legislation, as an amendment to the Education Bill, which would oblige university authorities to ensure that the principle of free speech within the law was upheld on their premises (following many incidents in which it had been denied, with violence, to visiting speakers and even to the institutions' own teachers), passers-by were deafened by the resolute and indignant squealing of those whose job it was to carry out the law, rather than, as they preferred, to let intimidation do its work while they looked the other way.

They said that a law was unnecessary, that it would be unenforceable, that boys will be boys, that the trouble had been much exaggerated, that a punch in the nose was good for catarrh, and that while they did not themselves believe that Mr John Carlisle, MP, practised cannibalism, at any rate regularly, reports that bones had been found in his dustbin could not be entirely discounted and that in any case a visit from him was undeniably something of a provocation.

The government ignored the squealing and pressed on with the legislation; how right they were to do so can be seen from recent events at the University College of Cardiff. For if university authorities are in general over-supple of spine, the conduct of those in charge at Cardiff must suggest that the Boneless Wonder has risen from the grave.

The Cardiff authorities have made a formal agreement with the students' union which enshrines the right to deny a hearing to any speaker deemed "controversial". If such a speaker is invited, the union will be officially allowed to stage an "orderly" demonstration outside the hall. (In practice, of course, that means that the students will continue, as is the fashion, to bang and spit upon the speaker's car, to try to prevent him from getting into the hall, and to scream abuse at him). When the meeting is about to start, the outside demonstrators from outside are to be ordered to enter the hall and take up official positions. Should the speaker say something that displeases them, "official heckling" will then begin, and if the speaker persists in saying things they do not approve of, they will then exercise their right, enshrined in the memorable words "chanting will take place", to prevent him being heard.

This treaty, in the even more

officer reported after his first interrogation of the man.

Even the CIA's James Jesus Angleton, then regarded by the Washington and London intelligence services alike as the world's most astute spy spotter, believed Hollis's weakness to be no more than a lack of the "creative imagination" necessary to an understanding of Soviet espionage.

As for the "young Turks" report, a sanitized summary of which was forwarded to the CIA via its station in London, Angleton found it professionally on a par with that of the information which former M15 agent Peter Wright seems to have leaked to Chapman Pincher, the journalist: full of connotative words, judgmental phrases, dramatic leaps to conclusions, and mountains made of molehills.

There is this to add. In the early days of Hollis's tenure an almost dogmatic belief was growing among intelligence officials that coldblooded, emotionless analysis was essential to a workable under-

standing of the Soviet assault on the West and its values. We needed the clinical objectivity of a doctor dealing with a typhoid epidemic rather than the zeal of a witch hunter.

Thus there was a growing distrust in the Washington and London intelligence communities of the viscerally motivated minorities in the FBI and M15 who were making nuisances of themselves in the manner of Senator Joe McCarthy. We could hold our own with left-wing kooks who attacked us for not sharing their admiration of the "grand experiment"; it was the fanatics on our own side whom we saw as a pest.

Thus, the view of the CIA is likely to be roughly the same as mine, to wit: instead of giving the Wright book a mass of free publicity — I would dearly like to persuade HMG to take my book into court when publication day nears — Mrs Thatcher should have first made a sober guess about her chances of a check victory in the Australian courts. Once seeing the likelihood of

failure she should have observed an old rule we used to preach in the early days of the CIA: "If you must kick a king be sure you kick him hard enough to kill him."

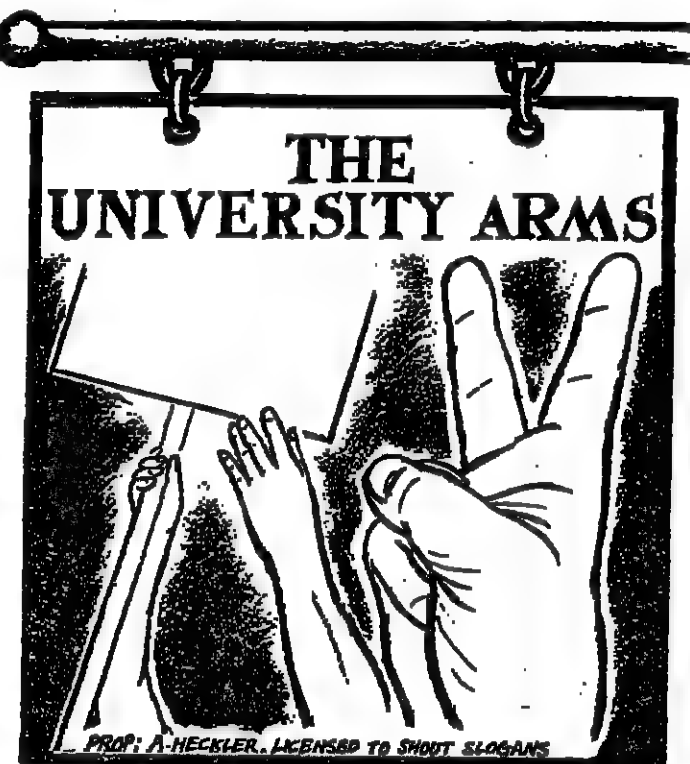
If this had happened in America in the good old pre-Watergate days, we oldtime professionals might have toyed briefly with the possibility of helping Wright to discredit himself — after all, he hasn't been doing too bad a job of it on his own — but in the end we would have been overruled by wiser heads who would have seen the book as no more than a rebuke of the same dreary old stuff and that, left to itself, it would wind up, unreviewed, on the remainder shelves.

But, alas, in the case at hand it's too late. Now a hero in the eyes of much of the public, and about to become the darling of television talk shows, Peter Wright is sure to have enough of a best-seller to make whatever Chapman Pincher paid him look like peanuts.

Miles Copeland, a former CIA official, is author of *The Game of Nations*.

Bernard Levin

From freedom of speech to licence to gag



striking words of those who agreed upon it, is designed to ensure "both freedom of speech within the law and the equally important freedom for students to express opposing views."

A student spokesman, after the announcement of the details, expressed himself well pleased with them, since, as he engagingly declared, the agreement would enable the students to continue with their policy of denying a platform to speakers of whose views they disapproved. For good measure, incidentally, the college's ignominious surrender was made even more abject by a codicil to the agreement, under the terms of which the authorities agreed to drop the disciplinary proceedings they had initiated against ten students who had been among those who recently prevented Mr Enoch Powell from completing a speech.

Presumably the Cardiff authorities hope that their agreement will, when the legislation is finally made law, enable them to ignore it. I trust that they will be rapidly disillusioned. But the grotesque nature of their surrender may have obscured the dishonesty that lies at its root. They claim that the agreement ensures a double free-

dom of speech; the right for a speaker to give his views and the "equally important" right for those who disagree to express their views.

Now leave aside what will happen in practice, which is that no unapproved speaker will be heard over the "official chanting". In what way is there equality of free speech when a speaker is trying to give his views and a section of the audience is licensed to shout him down? The right of the students to "express opposing views" suggests, and is plainly meant to suggest, that a debate or a discussion is envisaged; the "controversial" speaker puts his case, and someone else puts the contrary argument. But that is not at all what has been agreed. "To express opposing views" means, under the terms of the Cardiff agreement, the right of the students to shout abuse ("Racist! Racist! Sexist!") in unison, until the speaker, wearying of the unequal struggle, abandons his speech.

That is what is liable to happen as things are; but what the Cardiff agreement does is to make certain that it will happen, with the approval and support of the authorities. We are accustomed,

by now, to those who preach an equality between the fire brigade and the arsonist. Cardiff has gone a step further and now insists that the fire brigade's hoses should squirt petrol rather than water.

The tolerance of views we disagree with used to be the chief characteristic of civilized discourse. In a sense, it still is, though since civilized discourse has practically vanished, there is now little scope for its exercise. The rise of the *groupuscules* of the fascist left, with their unshakable conviction that no opposite views may be expressed, did not at first matter very much; but when the fascist left began to capture local authorities, and put their intolerance into practice, anyone who cared for freedom had cause for alarm. And when, soon afterwards, the same enemies of freedom gained a bridgehead in Parliament (now certain to be hugely expanded after the next election, whoever wins it) the alarm was even more urgently justified.

Yet those who, like me, were brought up in a different tradition believed that some pillars of the open society would never fall, and that among these would be, second only to the law, our universities. We should have known better, and when the University of Oxford refused to give Mrs Thatcher the customary honorary degree (largely because she hadn't given it a big enough monetary bribe) we did know better, though in truth the evidence by then was extensive and undeniable.

That evidence showed that in any struggle which required courage the universities would be found to practice cowardice; that in any call to them to defend freedom they would bow to freedom's enemies; and that when there was a challenge to the very nature and essence of a university as a place where all views, all theories, all beliefs could meet and be heard, they would run away from the challenge.

But surely even the most cynical observer of our universities believed that they would run as far as Cardiff now has. To ignore intolerance is one thing; to legislate it into the statutes is another. To ignore the cries for help uttered by freedom under assault is shameful; to rush to freedom's side and help to be labour her is more so. And to leave a bully to his bullying is bad enough; to proclaim the bully's "equally important rights" is the very worst.

It is not yet clear exactly what form the forthcoming "free speech" legislation will take. In particular, it is not laid down what means of enforcement the law will have against universities which fail in their new legal duty, and what penalties are envisaged. I can suggest an obvious remedy: let any university which is guilty under the proposed law lose its grant. For even Cardiff I imagine, would be willing to defend free speech if failing to do so would entail a threat to its income.

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prisoners in his time. Workers were being abused, police were being brutal, but there were cracks that allowed an opposition movement to grow.

Katowice, though, is unambiguous in its support. The Warsaw-Katowice highway, the lavish facilities of the Silesian University, the sports stadium, the concert hall — all this and more came about because of Gierk's patronage.

Gradually, as the present leadership defines economic reform in increasingly narrow terms, it is evident that the gap between their policies and Gierk's is not so wide. Some of the fundamental aims — to upgrade the steel industry (starting, of course, in Katowice), to boost engineering exports, to spur trade with the West — are identical.

The prime minister, Zbigniew Messner, is a Katowice man and a sprinkling of those in power, including General Jaruzelski, rose or established themselves during the Gierk era.

Roger Boyes

Anne Sofer

Cathy's tragic children

Like Aids, homelessness in London can only get worse. Even if government policy changed tomorrow and money for house building flooded into the inner city, the number of homeless would still increase before it fell: homes are not built overnight.

Nationally, the number of homeless families with dependent children has risen from 53,000 in 1978 to 94,000 in 1985. Half are in London, and the number in London alone is expected to double by next March.

The reasons go back to the late 1970s when the GLC stopped building council estates in outer London and the new towns, many, cheered at the time, believing that the drain of the young and vigorous had gone on long enough. All might have been well if council house building in inner London had continued, but it too began to grind to a halt. Since 1979 the housing capital programme has been cut from £1,493 million a year to £432 million.

Home ownership has of course grown prodigiously in the same period, but house prices anywhere within reach of London are now well beyond the reach of a good half of the population. Rented property likewise is scarce and expensive. Landlords blame the Rent Acts, but even without that disincentive it is much more profitable to sell and re-invest.

Meanwhile, there are no fewer than 130,000 empty properties in London. "Bureaucratic inefficiency," shout the Conservatives, pointing at the one third of empty council homes. Certainly allocation procedures are inordinately cumbersome, with homes being shown to one tenant at a time, and with a gap between offers. Any councillor in London can tell of complaints by angry constituents that perfectly good flats and houses are left vacant for months.

The London Housing Unit (a "son-of-GLC" outfit still operating from County Hall) blames private sector vacancies on "speculators waiting to cash in on the London property price casino". There are certainly plenty of them — but there is also a very large turnover of ordinary people buying, selling and renovating. Few sales occur without some period of vacancy.

A combination of factors — government policy, local authority practice, and market forces — therefore add up to a serious problem. In addition there has been the pressure brought about by the Homeless Persons Act itself. This humane measure, born out of the public outcry that followed the television documentary *Cathy Come Home* 20 years ago, has concentrated the duty of housing the homeless on those central London areas that have always attracted the searchers after jobs, a new life, anonymity or refuge.

In a small area between Paddington and King's Cross are most of the capital's bed and breakfast hotels. These are now used not only by the central

London boroughs but also by those further out as the only available accommodation for families who find themselves on the pavement clutching suitcases and carrier bags and the hands of frightened children.

These hotels are in varying states of cleanliness and safety — but all are overcrowded. One family to a room is the rule. It costs the local council around £12,000 a year per family; money which all the inner city councils, Conservative and Labour alike, have pleaded with central government to be allowed to spend on building or buying property instead — so far to no avail.

Others have written on the misery of the "bed and breakfast" existence, and it is probably hard for those of us not condemned to it to imagine it; claustrophobic quarters, nowhere for children to play, no proper cooking facilities, and no clue usually as to how long this purgatory is going to last — a sort of interminable impasse, lasting anything from a month to two years. Many, perhaps a majority, of the children are not receiving any education. They may be too far from their previous schools to continue attending there; and their parents, hoping every day to be rehoused in another area, may not get around to registering them temporarily at a nearby school.

Even if they try, they are more than likely to find the school full. "Falling rolls" in this area are a thing of the past; schools considered for closure only a few years ago are now bursting at the seams — but with a turnover of over 100 per cent a year.

If these thousands of families had been rendered homeless by some natural catastrophe — a flood or earthquake, say — we would treat them differently. We would engage volunteers to teach the children, advise the parents, chase up the local authorities, organize trips and parties. There would be features on television, fund-raising activities. But because it has happened as a result of deliberate policy, people's shame and anger is directed into other channels. They want to wipe out the outrage by political force rather than ameliorate its effects.

In any case, homeless families at least have a roof over their heads. Outside the protection of the Homeless Persons Act are those without dependent children. Single people, including those discharged from long-stay mental institutions and teenagers running away from home, are sleeping rough in parks, under bridges and in old cars.

In parts of central London today you can see homeless families spinning out the hours window-shopping for £500 Christmas toys. Rolls Royces are parked outside expensive bistros while old men wrapped in newspapers settle down for the night in an alleyway only yards away. As much as it has ever been, London is a city of Dickensian contrasts.

The author is a member of the SDP national committee.

Edward Lucie-Smith

The Goyas of Spitalfields

The award of the £10,000 Turner Prize to Gilbert and George, the self-proclaimed "living sculpture" duo, has upset many in the British art world who retain strong traces of Victorian prudery and hypocrisy.

There are two reasons for the ruckus. One is that the Turner Prize, during its brief life, has become a profoundly unpopular institution — a symbol of establishment elitism and of a determination to impose a particular definition of art on a rightly sceptical public. Every year the shortlist has been a roster of cultish avant-garde heroes, and the very first choice seemed to be a defiant assertion of the way that successive juries, themselves drawn from a very narrow and unrepresentative group, meant to go on. The prize then went to Malcolm Morley, an English jail bird who had spent his entire painting career in America and whose only contribution to British art was that he was born here.

Worse still, there has been an increasing element of Buggins's turn in the award of prizes. Howard Hodgkin, the second winner, was first nominated in Morley's year and Gilbert and George were on the shortlist when Hodgkin was chosen last time.

The second reason for the uproar is the personality of the prize-winners — two individuals working as a single artistic entity. The fact that their work is consistently autobiographical tends to turn any criticism of it into an attack on personal character — art, in this case, being inseparable from life and life-style.

I can remember Gilbert and George at the start of their careers — the "postal sculptures", usually composed cards in Thirties style, which came pattering uninvited through one's letter box; the performances mimed to a record of Flanagan and Allen's Underneath the Arch; later, the video showing them leaping endlessly in and out of a bush and the hideously ugly ashtay made from a half-melted gin bottle. Harmless follies of this sort were common in the avant-garde art world in the 1960s and '70s.

Gilbert and George's main achievement, however, is to be

found in their large photopiesces. It was for these that they got their prize, and the subject matter — the allusions to homosexuality, the reproductions of obscene graffiti, the hints of neo-fascism, the apparent celebration of tramps and hoodlums, the flirtation with blasphemy — is a great accumulation of offence to the critics. These images may also have been the very things which certified their avant-garde status for a shallow-minded jury, and in any case are not unique to Gilbert and George.

Homosexual themes are prominent in the art of Britain's two best living painters, Francis Bacon and David Hockney; and Bacon's work has, in addition, a good deal of sado-masochism and a number of allusions to drug-taking. The chief difference is that Gilbert and George supply their imagery within a social context — the photopiesces offer a vision of modern England, or at least certain aspects of it, mostly drawn from the artists' immediate surroundings of Spitalfields in London's East End.

Gilbert and George have evolved a way of making photographically derived images look like stained glass. Most of their photopiesces are a grid of framed squares, neatly fitted together, the images dyed in primary colours, often surrounded by heavy black outlines. The designs in which I at any rate sense a great accumulation of anger and bitter criticism of what our country has made of itself could be adornments for some satanic temple. They pose many questions about the nature of the society we live in.

To criticize the contemporary world in rage and sorrow is, I think, undoubtedly one of the higher functions of art. Goya did it too, in his etchings of the Disasters of War. In these he shows us rapes, an impalement and a castration — worse things than Gilbert and George have yet attempted. He was justified in so doing because such things did happen in Spain in Goya's time.

Like Goya, Gilbert and George turn contemporary reality into a forceful, if horrific, metaphor. Their critics should withdraw their heads from the sand.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

A TREATY THAT NEVER WAS

Whatever its curiosities of timing, President Reagan's decision to break out of the constraints of the seven-year old Salt-2 treaty is altogether less momentous than the weekend's criticism has suggested. It has not made Armageddon seem much more imminent. Indeed, surprise is due not for the fact that the United States has chosen to breach Salt-2, but for the fact that it has not done so before.

President Reagan has long been a trenchant critic of the unratified treaty. He condemned it as "fatally flawed" and fought it all the way to the White House. In office, he has remained a non-believer. Some 18 months ago he announced that the United States would continue to observe it — but only after some equivocation.

In May this year when the seventh Trident submarine entered service, he stayed within the limits of Salt-2 by ordering that two Poseidon boats should be scrapped to make way for it. But they were old boats anyway, in need of costly re-fitting and maintenance, and the announcement was accompanied by an ultimatum which suggested that the end of Salt was near.

President Reagan's argument, as indeed the argument of most critics of Salt-2, was first that the treaty favoured the Soviet Union, and second that even with this weighting in its favour, the Soviet Union had been guilty of consistent violations. A report by the American Arms Control and Disarmament Agency last spring pointed to seven areas of weapon development in which Moscow had allegedly shown scant respect for Salt-2.

The two most serious charges were that by deploying the new SS-25 ICBM as well as the SS-24, the Russians had developed two new systems instead of the one permitted; and that by encrypting their missile test telemetry they had tried to deceive US monitor-

ing procedures. While not disputing the charges, Moscow has denied that either action amounts to a violation of the treaty. It claims that the SS-25 was not a new missile but a replacement for the elderly SS-13, and it excuses its encoding of test data on the basis of some imprecise legal drafting in the treaty.

At worst, these actions do indeed seriously violate Salt-2, at best they suggest that the Soviet side has lived by the letter of the agreement rather than by its spirit. But this softer interpretation would mean in turn that the formulation of Salt-2 was deficient and the treaty itself unenforceable.

It was against the background of repeated accusations that the Soviet side was cheating that President Reagan issued his ultimatum to Moscow in May. Unless Soviet violations stopped, he said then, Washington would stop observing it. Six months later, the United States has done just that — by deploying the 131st B-52 bomber with nuclear cruise missiles on board.

Soviet reaction to the US announcement has so far been muted, which may have something to do with the fact that Mr Gorbachov was in India at the time. Yet a Soviet announcement that it too was preparing to breach the treaty might have been expected. The Soviet leadership might also have taken the opportunity to announce an end to its moratorium on nuclear testing. Instead, despite much huffing and puffing, there has been only the threat of unspecified retaliation.

The Soviet Union could retaliate by increasing the number of its land-based ICBM warheads, but there are practical limits to doing this. Mr Gorbachov has repeatedly intimated that he sees his priority as reviving his country's sluggish economy. And even if the Soviet side had not been given the excuse of President Reagan's announcement to break out of Salt-2, it

is hard to see how observance of the treaty has restrained Moscow from massive expansion of its nuclear stockpiles. These are already so surplus to requirements that there would be no strategic advantage in adding to them.

Supporters of Salt-2 argue that the treaty, whether it was strictly observed or not, gave the superpowers parameters within which to work and laid down rules which have — more or less — been kept. But "more or less" is a telling phrase. So long as one side, the Soviet side, was observing the rules less, the working of the treaty was unbalanced. There was no treaty as that word is commonly understood, merely an understanding.

Now that understanding has come to an end. The end of the illusion, may, however, mark the beginning of greater realism — and greater opportunities. The latest generation of arms talks, overlaid by the top-table diplomacy of Reagan and Gorbachov, Shevardnadze and Shultz, has produced proposals which would go much further than Salt-2 by halving the totals of superpower warheads and withdrawing them all from Europe. There is no sign that such radical proposals will be accepted. Rather they illustrate that Salt-2 has not only outlived its usefulness, but become largely irrelevant.

President Reagan's abandonment of Salt-2 marks the end of the Salt process which began with the opening of Salt-1 under Henry Kissinger's aegis 17 years ago. It also marks the formal end of détente. But détente, like Salt, was a product of its time. In the 1960s, with the nuclear age newly arrived and the cold war a recent memory, both East and West needed the reassurance of a formal framework within which to conduct their relations. If that framework is now understood, the Salt treaties have served their purpose. It is now time for something better.

NO TEARS FOR BURNHAM

In 1963 Sir Edward Boyle, then Education Secretary, refused to accept the recommendations of the Burnham Committee on teachers' pay and imposed his own settlement. The sticking point was the structure of the pay scale and the need to improve incentives. *Plus ça change...*

Sir Edward's present-day successor, Mr Kenneth Baker, has found himself confronted by very similar problems. But he has gone one further than Sir Edward. Whereas collective bargaining was restored in 1965, Mr Baker's Bill published at the end of last week abolishes the Burnham Committee structure altogether. "Burnham scale" — the support of generations of teachers since 1919 — will soon be only a memory.

Both the teachers' unions and the local authority employers have protested strongly at the assassination of Burnham. But the Burnham system was inherently unsatisfactory: it was a compromise reflecting the constitutional anomaly under which the Secretary of State for Education has all the responsibility for what goes on in our schools and none of the power.

The Burnham Committee as it was reconstituted after the Boyle interregnum is a group of 50 members representing employers and teachers. The 27 seats on the employers' side

comprise 25 from the local authorities and just two from the Department of Education. The Education Secretary had no formal power beyond this, but under an informal concordat the government was granted a veto (on grounds of cost) and a block vote broadly equivalent to the proportion of teachers' salaries financed by the taxpayer through the rates support grant.

Once this gentleman's agreement had been unilaterally abandoned by the unions last year the one thing which held the creaking structure of Burnham together ceased to exist. The idea that the taxpayer should be expected to pick up the tab for a large proportion of whatever pay increase the local authorities and teaching unions agreed could not survive the realities of public expenditure control very long.

The new Bill proposes to replace Burnham with an advisory committee whose members will be appointed by the Education Secretary. The new committee will advise on both pay and conditions. Conditions of employment will be incorporated into teachers' contracts. When the Education Secretary has received the committee's report he will consult the local authority employers and the unions and then make provision for pay levels by order, subject to parliamentary procedures.

The proposals in the Bill are explicitly intended to be temporary. They expire in 1990 and thereafter have to be renewed annually. This may be as well. The history of advisory committees on pay is not a happy one. No matter how carefully the Education Secretary chooses his "wise men" he is likely to find that the Committee wants to award the teachers more than the government wishes to pay them.

The immediate decisions are now firmly in the court of local authority employers and trade unions. Mr Baker has made it clear that he is not prepared to accept the pay structure worked out by the employers and unions. Nor will he accept the additional £70-£80-million cost on top of the £600-million the government has already agreed. While the employers may be willing to move closer to the government's position, the National Union of Teachers has already endorsed the alternative package which it is putting to its members.

It would be understandable if NUT members felt tempted, despite the considerable gains they have already made, to indulge in a *macho* display of confrontation with the government. They should reflect, however, that they are likely only to antagonize parents further, while not in the end achieving their objectives.

FALSE ECONOMY

Sir Robert Armstrong has been receiving few bouquets for his performance in the Sydney courtroom, but one credit that seems, undeservedly, to be sticking to him is that of having invented the phrase "economical with the truth". Some have suggested that he will be remembered in years to come as the author of this immortal phrase, if for nothing else. His authorship of it has been generally accepted, and perhaps he has been too preoccupied to disclaim it.

On Friday a rival claim was made on behalf of C.P. Scott, as reported by Malcolm Muggeridge. But we might assume that C.P. Scott, like Sir Robert, would have known the true source, and would have used it in the confidence that others would know it and so not suspect him of plagiarism. The phrase has, in fact, been in circulation for nearly 200 years, and was coined by a

greater man than Sir Robert Armstrong or even C.P. Scott. In the first of his letters to a fellow MP, dating from 1796-7 and published under the title *Letters on a Regicide Peace*, Edmund Burke writes: "Falsehood and delusion are allowed in no case whatever; but, as in the exercise of all virtues, there is an economy of truth. It is a sort of temperance, by which a man speaks truth with measure, that he may speak it the longer."

A little earlier in the same letter he defines his attitude towards official secrecy and freedom of information in terms that are as valid in our own day as in his: "I admit that reason of state will not, in many circumstances, permit the disclosure of the true ground of a public proceeding. In that case silence is mainly, and it is wise."

I take the distinction to be: the ground of a particular measure making part of a plan

it is rarely proper to divulge; all the broader grounds of policy, on which the general plan is to be adopted, ought as rarely to be concealed."

In other words, it is right to debate publicly whether or not a secret service is desirable and (granted its desirability) the limits within which it should work. But it is not right that its detailed workings should be revealed, least of all by former members of it who have sworn eternal secrecy.

Unfortunately for Sir Robert, the principle of economy of truth, so appropriate to statesmanship, is not appropriate to giving evidence in a British (or British-derived) court of law, where "the whole truth" is meant to be told. He is guilty of having said the right thing in the wrong place; also of having slightly misquoted Burke's phrase, and perhaps of having failed to correct its false attribution.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forgiveness and Moors murderers

From the Rev Dr W. J. Morris
Sir, Your leader last Saturday (November 22), entitled "Crime and punishment", raises several points of interest.

Perhaps most crucial of these for Christians is to determine how they should wish to treat a person who, having been convicted of a crime of violence and having repented, has in their belief been forgiven by God.

The article states that Myra Hindley should remain in prison even if she has genuinely repented and that this is not to refuse to forgive her but to recognise that she has rightly forfeited her freedom.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1984 was faced with a request from two men to be ordained as ministers of the Gospel within the Church. One was, and will always be, on life licence for the murder of his mother. The other had been convicted of embezzlement. Both had served periods of imprisonment.

In view of claims on their behalf that they had repented, the General Assembly did not doubt that God had forgiven them, or deny them the forgiveness of the Church.

The question which divided the Assembly was: does forgiveness in wiping out guilt and alienation give the forgiven person the right to serve the Church in any capacity, no matter what he has done?

The General Assembly answered in the affirmative. The two men have been ordained and none

of us would wish anything other than that their ministries be blessed.

Nevertheless, the Church had been faced, perhaps for the first time, with the practical dilemma of the extent to which belief in forgiveness should qualify our practical decisions. Christians in society have to make a less pressing decision about someone like Myra Hindley.

In 1984 the story Jesus told about the return and reinstatement of the prodigal son was much in our minds. Less prominently, but not entirely forgotten, were the words of a theologian, H. R. Mackintosh, first published thirty years ago:

There are secondary consequences of sin which at least in many instances are not directly removed by pardon... If in youth we waste our powers, if we yield habitually to deceit, if we soil the innocence of others or despite their affection, then, whatever God's later mercy may bestow, these things have left deep marks, not wholly to be obliterated, on thought and habit, on preferences and delights. There are kinds of service we might have rendered, which we now cannot make.

Some of us, whichever view we supported, could not attain the certainty expressed in your leader. Perhaps your readers may shed more light on the problem of the practical consequences of forgiveness.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM J. MORRIS,
94 St Andrew's Drive,
Glasgow,
November 25.

Patent protection

From the Chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries Plc
Sir, Sir Graham Wilkins (November 26) is absolutely right to draw attention to the serious consequences of not repealing the

licences of right provisions of the 1977 Patent Act. This is a unique UK anomaly and is already beginning to cause damage to innovative industry — damage that the UK can ill afford because we must seek maximum benefit from our native inventiveness.

In ICI we have a series of notable pharmaceutical discoveries to our credit, and we are proud to be major contributors to the enviable record of innovation and export performance of the UK pharmaceutical industry over the past 20 years. For example, the industry contributed a positive

balance of payments of over £800million in 1985 and provides many jobs.

The effect of the present anomaly is to put us at a considerable disadvantage compared with competitors in Europe, Japan and the USA. It is anyhow obviously foolish to curtail the ability of successful innovators when there is a crying need for research on new drugs for conditions such as cancer, senile dementia, arthritis and AIDS.

Despite the pressure on parliamentary time, I hope that a means will be found very soon for repealing this damaging provision.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARVEY-JONES,
Chairman,
Imperial Chemical Industries Plc,
Millbank, SW1,
November 26.

Amphibious defence

From Mr D. R. Robertson
Sir, Lord Watkinson (November 14) complains of the lack of capacity to mount an amphibious operation and declares his determination that "we should learn the military lessons of Suez and the Falklands."

It is a fact, however, that after all the years that have passed since a hovercraft was invented by Sir Christopher Cockerell we saw on television pictures of our armed forces in the Falklands wading ashore and rowing a landing craft with their burning transport vessel in the background. Our mobile defence forces still do not have a truly amphibious vehicle with all its tactical advantages, but rely on rubber boats and landing barges.

Those of us who have

endeavoured to prove the capabilities of this British invention and thus extend our maritime tradition into shallow and debilitated waters have been confronted, but not frustrated, by the Government's policy of the "terminal grant" (the award of a final payment to replace regular grants).

This means no money for research or even for any expenditure on craft for the coastal forces such as Customs, police or hydrographic survey work in shallow waters and estuaries near our coast. Our mobile seaborne defence role is still sadly deficient.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. ROBERTSON,
Norcott,
Foreland Road,
Bembridge,
Isle of Wight.

The Queen's victim

From Mr W. M. Auld
Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Nicolas Belford (November 20), enquires about the Lake Tanganyika steamer the *Ss. Liemba*. A month ago I was chatting to my old friend the present Chief Justice of Zambia, himself an Abercorn, or Mbala, man. He assured me that the *Liemba* is still plying between Mbala and Kigoma and is now "much improved".

Interestingly, when she was scuttled the Germans, or "Jelly-mannies", as they are still called in that part of the world, with their usual thoroughness, had the engines well greased. After the British had refloated her all she needed was a new Motherwell boiler.

Yours sincerely,
W. M. AULD,
2 Elm Park Gardens,
Chelsea, SW10,
November 20.

From Mr A. D. H. Leishman
Sir, Last year's readers might imagine that the *Liemba* be the oldest operating steamer on the African great lakes, that honour

belongs to the old mission steamer, *Chauncy Maples*. She was launched on Nyasa to the south in 1901, was extensively modernised in the 1960s by Malawi Railways, such that only her hull was then recognisable, and still connects the villages at the southern end of Nyasa.

Both steamers bear testimony to Mr Belford's point about the almost rustproof qualities of the pure waters of the two Rift Valley lakes.

Service and appointment on board *Liemba* tend to reflect the prevailing dire economic circumstances of Tanzania at the moment — *Liemba* is not run primarily for tourist purposes — but for those who wish to savour another Africa, away from the hectic modernity of international airports and five-star hotels, a voyage on the African Queen's Great War target is a memorable experience.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
A. D. H. LEISHMAN,
75 King Street,
Southwell, Nottinghamshire,
November 22.

Mother's pride

From Mrs Susan J. Hyde
Sir, Like others of your correspondents, I encounter difficulties when giving my occupation on official forms. In a recent statement to the police I gave it as "mother". This reply was clearly outside the young constable's experience, but he quickly regained his composure and was eager to write "housewife". We settled eventually for an innocuous "part-time secretary".

As a widow with four young children, I am married neither to man nor to house, but to the emotional and material support of my family. Circumstances prescribe that in my attempt to be both mother and father, I exercise wide-ranging skills — skills for which, in large part, I have received no training.

Is the full-time job of being a single parent such a phenomenon that it cannot achieve official recognition as an occupation? Yours faithfully,
S. J. HYDE,
1 Oddfellows Terrace,
North Church Street,
Bakewell, Derbyshire,
November 19.

Needles for addicts

From Mr T. H. Hughes-Davies
Sir, The argument for freely available needles is strong, but should they be free? A charge of £1 each, with a refund of 75p when the needle is returned to the chemist, might lessen the danger from contaminated needles scattered about our parks, beaches and lavatories.

Yours sincerely,
T. H. HUGHES-DAVIES,
Slades Cottage, Breamore,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

Fruity plonk?

From Mr I. H. Lightman
Sir, I give up! Your experts (November 22) fruitfully describe the 1986 Beaujolais Nouveau thus: raspberry-banana, cherry-ade, banana-fruity, perfumed strawberry, raspberry-redcurrant, plummer, zesty-lemony, cherry and banana, and sherberty. My own considered assessment is "thin red plonk". Could I have missed something? Or is it my "dumb nose"? Yours faithfully,
I. H. LIGHTMAN,
6 Clos Coedydarn,
Llswan, Cardiff.

Climate where arts can thrive

From Mr Gerald F. Bowden, MP for Dulwich (Conservative)

Sir, Extravagant language cannot disguise the economy of truth in recent pronouncements by the arts establishment. The doom-laden prophecy of Sir Claus Moser (report, November 12) that we are in danger of becoming a nation of philistines cannot go unchallenged.

On those rare occasions when I, from my taxed income, buy tickets for Covent Garden, I am delighted to meet there acquaintances whose seats have been paid for by corporate concerns. I am delighted because commerce is giving its financial support to the Royal Opera House.

At the same time, I am somewhat chastened to think that all of us who occupy those seats are subsidised to the tune of some £21. To put this subsidy into some perspective, a couple attending a performance at Covent Garden receive some £42 from the general taxpayer while an unemployed couple receive £47.85p per week in unemployment benefit. This does not reflect the priorities of the philistines.

This Government has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the arts in many and various ways. Far from cutting Government grant to the arts, the budget for the coming year provides for an increase of some 3% per cent — a figure well in advance of the anticipated rate of inflation.

Since 1979 central Government expenditure on the arts will have increased by 28 per cent in real terms. Moreover, business sponsorship is being encouraged and it is estimated it will make a contribution of some £25million in the coming year; and arrangements set out by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the 1986 Budget offer the opportunity for wider financial support for the arts through charitable giving.

Arts administrators may find it more convenient to receive their full financial support solely through a Government grant. But such an approach has its dangers. The vigour and independence of artistic endeavour has stronger safeguards when its financial support comes from a variety of sources.

This Government has not only increased direct donations to the arts, but has created a benign climate enabling the arts to receive support from many different directions. This is not the philistine's approach, but an enlightened and innovative policy for funding the arts in the future.

Yours etc,
GERALD BOWDEN,
House of Commons,
November 24.

English in schools

From Miss Cecily Clark
Sir, I cannot allow to pass unquestioned a recent assertion that teaching English grammar in schools is pointless (letter, November 22). Knowledge of grammar is not irrelevant to accurate self-expression.

Writing lucid prose is a skill which rests — no less than on singing, dancing and violin-playing — upon technical competence; to suppose that it can be done without a firm grasp of grammar and of the connotations of words is like claiming that opera and ballet would be as well, or better, presented by untrained performers than by trained ones.

Grammatical exercises are not necessarily boring; in my schooldays I revelled in the parsing of complex sentences, which (apart from allowing one swiftly and painlessly to amass examination marks) satisfied innate desires for patterned structure. In their early stages, it is true, such studies offer limited scope for originality, but that applies to all basic disciplines, including anatomy and arithmetic, neither of which is threatened with abolition.

Yours faithfully,
CECILY CLARK,
13 Church Street,
Chester, Cheshire,
November 25.

Over-subscribed

From Mr Kenneth Simpson
Sir, Some businesses, including public utilities, have in recent years shown somewhat unseemly haste in claiming payment from their customers, but at least they have rendered the goods and services (except for fractions of equipment rentals) before the bills.

This morning, however, I received a buff envelope, franked in red, containing a renewal notice saying that my subscription to a monthly magazine will expire shortly, and that "to ensure an uninterrupted supply the publishers would appreciate a prompt response to this reminder."

My current subscription ends with the February issue, i.e. a good two and a half months ahead, leaving three and a half months before I could benefit from renewal. Is this prudent foresight or a new (to me) commercial try-on?

My prompt response, apart from this letter, has been to send a cheque dated February 1.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH SIMPSON,
54 Plants Green,
Warminster,
Wiltshire,
November 17.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 1 1900

Oscar Wilde, born in 1856, died in Paris on November 30, 1900. In May, 1895, having been found guilty of committing "acts of gross indecency with another male person..." he was imprisoned with hard labour for two years. On his release he was ostracised. His books and plays were withdrawn and he left Britain. Considering the moral climate of the period, the paper's obituary was generous and showed compassion.

DEATH OF OSCAR WILDE

Dec. 1, 1900.

A Reuter telegram from Paris states that OSCAR WILDE died there yesterday afternoon from meningitis. The melancholy end to a career which once promised so well is stated to have come in an obscure hotel of the Latin Quarter. Here the once brilliant man of letters was living, exiled from his country and from the society of his countrymen. The verdict that a jury passed upon his conduct at the Old Bailey in May, 1895, destroyed for ever his reputation, and condemned him to ignominious obscurity for the remainder of his days.

When he had served his sentence of two years' imprisonment, he was broken in health as well as bankrupt in fame and fortune. Death has soon ended what must have been a life of wretchedness and unending regret. Wilde was the son of the late Sir William Wilde, an eminent Irish surgeon. His mother was a graceful writer, both in prose and verse. He had a brilliant career at Oxford, where he took a first-class both in classical moderations and in *Lit. Hum.*, and also won the Newdigate Prize for English verse for a poem on *Ravenna*. Even before he left the University in 1878 Wilde had become known as one of the most affected of the professors of the aesthetic craze and for several years it was as the typical aesthete that he was known to the public. At the same time he was a man of far greater originality and power of mind than many of the apostles of aestheticism. As his Oxford career showed, he had undoubted talents in many directions, talents which might have been brought to fruition had it not been for his craving after notoriety. He was known as a poet of graceful distinction; as an essayist of wit and distinction; later on as a playwright of skill and subtle humour. None of his "The Picture of Dorian Grey", attracted much attention, and his sayings passed from mouth to mouth as those of one of the professed wits of the age. When he became a dramatist, his plays had all the characteristics of his conversation. His first play, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, was produced in 1892. *A Woman of No Importance* followed in 1893. *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* were both running at the time of his sudden disappearance from English life. All these plays had the same qualities — a paradoxical humour and a perverted outlook on life being the most prominent. They were packed with witty sayings, and the author's cleverness gave him at once a position in the dramatic world. The revelations of the criminal trial in 1895 naturally made them impossible for some years. Recently, however, one of them was revived, though not at a West-end theatre. After his release in 1897, Wilde published "The Ballad of Reading Gaol", a poem of considerable but unequal power. He also appeared in print as a critic of our prison system, against the results of which he entered a passionate protest. For the last three years he has lived abroad. It is stated on the authority of the *Dublin Evening Mail* that he was recently received into the Roman Catholic Church. Mrs Oscar Wilde died not long ago, leaving two children.

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Yours faithfully,
KENNETH SIMPSON,
54 Plants Green,
Warminster,
Wiltshire,
November 17.

Instant switch-off?

From Mrs E. M. Thomas
Sir, What exactly is the purpose of railway station announcements? During the war, when name signs disappeared and lighting was minimal, they were absolutely necessary, and their plaintive audibility became a national joke; now, stations are identified by large illuminated signs, and information appears on computer displays.

Do I understand that "Epsom, all change" (report, November 27) is meant for people inside the train who certainly cannot hear it?

Do you think, Sir, that if all station announcements were stopped tomorrow there would be a single complaint? Yours faithfully,
E. M. THOMAS,
10 Clarence Crescent,
Windsor, Berkshire,
November 27.



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 29: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, was present this morning at a Service for the Rededication and Opening of the Bells at Peterborough Cathedral.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
November 30: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at "A Tribute to Peter Pears 1910-1986" in aid of the Aldeburgh Foundation Appeal, at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Prince George of Denmark will be held in Westminster Abbey at 5pm today.

The Countess of Erroll gave birth to a daughter at Basingstoke Hospital on November 23.

Birthdays today

Mr Woody Allen, 51; Lord Cross of Chelsea, 82; Mr Gordon Cross, 49; Lord Glenconner, 60; Dame Alicia Markova, 76; Miss Mary Martin, 73; Mr Kenneth Herbert, 58; Mr Bruce Page, 50; Sir William Pile, 67; Dame Mildred Riddelsdell, 73; Mr Andy Ripley, 39; Lord Roll of Ipsley, 79; Mr G. D. Scuibb, QC, 80; Mr Les Trevino, 47; Baroness Wiloughby de Eresby, 52.

Memorial meeting

Mrs J. Bennett
Mrs Gillian Bennet, Vice-Mistress of Giron College, Cambridge, presided at a memorial meeting for Mrs Joan Bennett held on Saturday at Giron College. Mrs Sarah Rev, granddaughter, read from the Book of Proverbs, Miss Barbara Brenchley read *The Anniversary* by John Donne, Dr Katherine Herzog, daughter, read from the works of James Shirley and George Herbert, and Miss Elizabeth Cook from the works of Ben Jonson.

Memorial services

Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Thistlethorpe
The Lord Lieutenant for West Sussex was represented by Sir Peter Murrell and the First Sea Lord by Rear-Admiral G.A.F. Hitchens at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Thistlethorpe held on Saturday at the Church of St Mary and St Gabriel, Haring, West Sussex. Dr L.H. Jeffery

Oxford Society

The London branch of the Oxford Society will hold its twenty second annual dinner on Wednesday, December 3, in the Hall of the Middle Temple, by permission of the Master and Benchers. Lord Tweedsmuir will preside and speeches will be by Lord Windlesham, chairman of the society's executive committee, Viscount Tony-pandy, former Speaker of the House of Commons, and Dr J.M. Roberts, Warden of Merton College. Members of Oxford University, past or present, wishing to receive details of membership of the Oxford Society and news of its functions are invited to write to the Secretary, Dr H.A. Hurren, 8 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2HY, or telephone, (0865) 59345.

Cheshire Homes are all about caring...in so many ways.



Founders Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC.

The residents in Leonard Cheshire Homes are very severely handicapped men, women and children suffering from a wide range of conditions. Sometimes unable to speak, or to move much more than a hand or foot.

A Cheshire Home offers them much more than just physical care. It gives them the dignity and freedom that is their right as individuals, the opportunity of friendship, a sense of purpose and a chance to participate.

There are 75 Cheshire Homes in the United Kingdom and a further 147 in 45 countries throughout the world. All of them have been made possible by the efforts of dedicated volunteers and by generous charitable donations.

We also reach out to elderly and disabled people living in their own homes, and to families with a handicapped member who may be struggling alone in isolation and despair. 19 Family Support Services in England provide vital part-time help at crucial times of the day - a lifeline indeed. But many, many more services are needed to plug the yawning gaps in state provision. Only 2.37% of our income is spent on administering this large charity.

This means that almost all the money we receive goes in DIRECT help to those in need.

PLEASE HELP US TO GO ON CARING AND EXPANDING

To: Hon. Treasurer, Room B, The Leonard Cheshire Foundation, 26-29 Mansel Street, London SW1P 2QN.

☐ I enclose a donation.

☐ Please send me some information on covenants/legacies.

☐ Please send me more information. (please delete)

Name _____

Address _____

Clifford Longley

Advent nagging the public conscience

As December begins its crescendo of self-indulgence towards Christmas the churches launch a counter movement of self-denial and repentance, but it happens too regularly to be news, and it is called Advent.

This descent to the popular pre-Christmas mood is like a nag to the public conscience, part of the function of religious institutions to be out of step and inconvenient, saying the wrong thing at the wrong time.

But religious institutions are sometimes short of the necessary courage to risk the unpopularity of other-worldliness at times when the world presses in hardest. For even in the churches themselves other-worldliness has become unpopular.

This is related to the fight from unworldliness, the fear of seeming preoccupied with the future after-life to the neglect of the present this-life. But the more profound explanation of this retreat is a state of doctrinal uncertainty and theological confusion about what it is now acceptable to believe concerning life after death.

Heaven has become unmentionable, which is probably because hell has become unmentionable, for the one does not make much sense without the other. It is by no means clear that a modern believer allows himself to believe in hell at all, for the very idea of eternal punishment seems at odds with all that is humane, civilised, decent, and liberal.

Advent, as a case in point, would be a very different period if it were understood doctrine, but the medieval understanding of preparation for the coming of the One who could deliver mankind from the ever present dreadful threat of eternal damnation.

Even today, all the churches would still state no less than this as their official doctrine, but their conduct and preaching belie it. There are genuine intellectual difficulties, not just squeamishness, behind this reserve; but they will not be resolved by avoiding them. It seems to be a very long time since any serious theological attention was given to these difficulties.

Marriages

Mr C.J. Cazale and Miss J.C. Little
The marriage took place on Saturday at Chelsea Old Church of Mr Julian Cazale, youngest son of the late Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Cazale, and of Lady Cazale of Newark, Lewes, East Sussex, and Miss Jennifer Little, youngest daughter of the late Mr Maurice Little and of Mrs Little, of Laverton, Broadway, Worcestershire. The Rev. Canon E. Leighton Thomson and the Rev. A. Lee officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Mr Robert Neilson was attended by James and Victoria New, Dr Adrian Dixon was best man.

A reception was held at the Naval and Military Club and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr A.S. Collins and Mrs V.M. Crisp
The marriage took place quietly, in London, on Friday, November 28, between Mr Andrew Collins and Mrs Virginia Crisp (nee Craik-White).

A reception was held at the Naval and Military Club and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Dinner

Royal Scottish Corporation
The anniversary dinner of the Scottish Hospital of King Charles II was held at the Savoy Hotel on Saturday, Lord Balfour of Burleigh was in the chair and the other speakers were the Earl of Erroll, Sir Stephen Miller and Mr James Gulliver.

judging from the usual content of current theological journals, books, reviews and lectures. It is the modern theologian's least favourite subject.

In this theological vacuum salvation becomes a "prizes for everyone" business. Controversy over salvation by faith alone, such as was recently tackled by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, has no real significance for anyone if everyone believes salvation to be the universal destiny.

In the absence of any coherent concept of damnation, however, this must be salvation will seem. Even the word mocks the hollowness of the idea - salvation from what, exactly? And if there is nothing to be saved from, the central events and doctrines of Christianity lose whatever underlying logic they may have had. The man crucified to save the world was a meaningless and barren tragedy if there was no need to save it, and nothing to save it from.

Nevertheless the received traditional doctrines of hell are startling in their inappropriateness and offensiveness. In a world in which no civilised person can defend the use of physical torture, the idea of eternal punishment by fire is obscene. A perpetual state of outer mental misery, as a punishment deliberately inflicted by God as a reward for wickedness, it hardly more appealing or credible.

What is lacking is any notion of a doctrine of hell which a modern mind can grasp and imagine, without having to reject it as entirely absurd. Yet it still has to pass the test of total unattractiveness, of being that fate than which it is impossible to imagine a worse one.

Such a modern renewal of the concepts of salvation and damnation would also have to address the contradictions apparent in the received tradition, at least in the Protestant part of the Christian world. With no doctrine of purgatory, there are only two possible sentences, heaven or hell. It is as if the lowest magistrate had no lesser penalty at his discretion than death.

The first necessary ingredient in a

credible concept of judgement after death would be some revival of a concept of purgatory, somewhere that the fairly but not very wicked can get what they deserve. It is the either-or starkness of the salvation-damnation choice which has, more than any other idea, promoted the belief in salvation for everyone and made damnation ridiculous.

Similarly such a renewal would have to propose some credible idea of the state of after-life, something better (in the case of heaven) than "all the things you could possibly have ever wanted all at once" or (in the case of hell) demons with forks and dungeons with fire.

If it is individual consciousness which is said to survive, then heaven, hell and purgatory have to be described as states of conscious experience, extensions of experiences already known. The medieval image-makers did not shrink from this, in their employment of images of burning. But no-one has had the courage to propose some equivalent which modern imaginations can grasp.

And to be plausible as part of a universe ruled by a loving God, the medieval idea of externally imposed physical punishment would have to give way to something mental rather than physical, and something self-inflicted by virtue of an inescapable logic. It can no longer be seen as God's choice that the damned should suffer, but the suffering has to be the automatic fulfilment of moral, psychological and spiritual dispositions and choices already irreversibly made. Psychiatry is not altogether ignorant of such possibilities.

The foundation of a modern theory of salvation requires such a renewed concept of damnation, to explain how it is to work as the means of deliverance from such locked-in mental states. In the absence of such a renewal, however, the religious mind will hesitate to draw away through lack of confidence and lack of coherence, and other-worldliness will remain no more than not-of-this-worldliness with nothing more positive to say. With something only as vague as that in conflict with the world, the world will surely win.

Astronomy

Night sky in December

By our Astronomy

Correspondent

Mercury is a morning star and might be observable in the first week of the month, rising about two hours before the Sun, magnitude -0.5.

Venus is prominent in the morning sky and will reach its greatest brilliancy, -4.7, on the 11th. Moon near it on the 28th.

Mars reaches its setting time of just before 23h, while moving rapidly relative to the stars of Aquarius, just reaching Pisces by the end of the month.

Jupiter is quite prominent in the south-west, but by the end of the month will be setting at about 22h. Mars will be very close to it, in the same binocular field, on the 19th but three magnitudes less bright. Moon not far from these two planets on the 7th.

Uranus and Neptune are also lost in the twilight and will be in conjunction on the 14th and 27th respectively.

The Moon, new, 1d17h; first quarter, 8d08h; full, 16d07h; last quarter, 24d09h; new, 31d03h. Algol: approximate times of evening minima are just after midnight Nov 30-Dec 1, 3d21h, 6d18h, 9d15h, 23d23h and 26d20h.

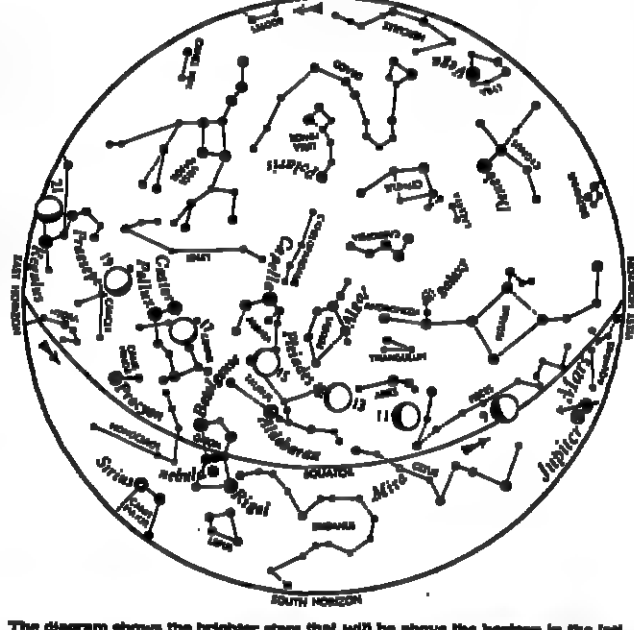
The Winter Solstice, when the Sun will reach its most southerly declination, will be at 22d04h. This is nominally the shortest day, but in fact the length of daylight is almost constant for several days about this time.

The earliest sunsets will be around the 12th of the month and the latest sunrises about the 30th.

Mention was made last month of the Leonid meteor shower. There may be a few Comets to be seen in the second week of this month, though unfortunately there will be moonlight. Maximum is due on the 14th and the radiant in Gemini is not far from Castor and Pollux.

The conjunction of three outer planets all in the same month suggests that they are all roughly in line, but reference to earlier maps, say July and August, shows that they cannot be, for although they are on the same side of the Sun they appear in different constellations.

The determining factor in the dates is the motion of the Earth. It is not so much the planets hiding behind the Sun, but rather the Earth hiding from



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the last 15 minutes of the month, local mean time. At places away from the equator the Moon may be seen at a different time. The diagram is accurate to within one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by the observer's facing direction for the month shown. The diagram is for the Northern Hemisphere and is not valid for the Southern Hemisphere.

them as their imaginary inhabitants see the Earth in superior conjunction. Christmas Eve will be dark this year. Jupiter and Mars, close together in the west, will be setting by 10pm, and the Moon will not rise until midnight. For early wakers on Christmas morning there will be a half moon near the south and the brilliant Venus submerging into the great day low in the south-east.

Readers are reminded that this is one of the occasions when the sundial (making allowance for longitude if not done when the dial was set) will closely agree with the time signals, to within a few seconds on the 25th.

For anyone who has received the present of a telescope or binoculars the night sky for the next three months is at its brightest and best and provides many opportunities.

By the end of this month the current map will apply to 5pm and the November one to 7pm, excluding the Moon and Mars of course.

Jupiter will at once attract attention and snare telescopes will show its four main satellites. If there should be several

clear nights the quite rapid changes in configuration can be observed. The constellation of Orion is also prominent; notice colour differences, which are enhanced by optical aid.

Betegeuse differs from most of the others, and the nebula, a beautiful sight, differs from both. Another beautiful object is the Pleiades cluster; how many stars can you see without the instrument? (they will be difficult to count with it). The Plough, part of Ursa Major, is low in the north; look at the middle star of the handle (or tail).

Another object of interest is the galaxy in Andromeda. Being near the zenith it will be difficult to get at unless lying in a very low deck chair. If showing the sky to the children do at least point out as the most distant object the unaided eye can see: its light takes two million years to reach us, whereas from the Sun only eight minutes.

● *The Times Night Sky 1987* is available in bookshops, price £1.75. It contains the monthly maps for 1987, notes on the positions of the planets, and a review of the year in space.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr J.R. Le Fanu and the Hon J.L. Azzam
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Richard Le Fanu, and Julie, younger daughter of Lord and Lady Azzam.

Mr L.D. Baker and Miss J.A.C. Vass
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Judge and Mrs P.V. Baker, of Purley, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.J.D. Vass, of Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

Mr A.J. Ballantyne and Miss R.C.M. Eggleston
The engagement is announced between Alastair, younger son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Ballantyne, of Preston, Lancashire, and Rose, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Eggleston, of Norwich and Campton School, Athens.

Mr J.F. Barrett and Miss M.K.E. Hill
The engagement is announced between Julian Patrick Barrett, The Light Infantry, eldest son of Mr Patrick A. Barrett, OBE, and Mrs Barrett, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, and London, SW3, and Maria Kathleen Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Edwin Hill, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr R. Boggs-Rolfe and Miss L.E. Jenkin
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Paul Boggs-Rolfe, and Lvely Elizabeth, younger daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Stephen Jenkin, of Hampton Manor, Northleach, Gloucestershire.

Mr C.M. Naylor and Miss C.J. Foxon
The engagement is announced between Christopher Mark, elder son of Judge and Mrs G.K. Naylor, of Heston, Wiltshire, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Murray-Brown, of Fulham, London.

Mr S.H. Le Jeune and Miss A.L.G. Clowes
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Hedley Jeune, of Britains Farm, Sevenoaks, Kent, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Garfit Clowes, of Glade Lodge, Kingswood, Surrey.

Mr M.J. Fetherston-Godley and Miss E.C. Murray-Brown
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Mr P.A.E. Fetherston-Godley and the late Mrs P.E. Fetherston-Godley, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr N.J. Murray-Brown, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Mrs J. Murray-Brown, of Fulham, London.

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Mr A.E. Popielek and Miss E.L. Knight
The engagement is announced between Anton, son of Mr and Mrs W. Popielek, of Lawford, Essex, and Hilary, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.D. Knight, of Meopham, Kent.

Mr W.H.A. Powell and Miss N.S. Wynn
The engagement is announced between William, youngest son of Major and Mrs David Powell, of Finchampstead, Berkshire, and Nicola, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Mason, of Chertsey, Kent.

Mr T.G. Reeve and Miss S.A. Parker
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs T.G. Reeve, of G.J. Reeve and Mrs G.E. Reeve, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr A.E. Parker and Mrs R.F. Hobbs.

Mr G.H.J. Reddick and Miss C.E. Wickham
The engagement is announced between Guy, son of Dr and Mrs Maurice Reddick, of St Brelade, Jersey, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Wickham, of Westcott, Surrey.

Mr N.C. Walters and Miss G.M. Hesford
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of the late Mr N. Walters and Mrs R. Walters, of Watford, Hertfordshire, and Georgia, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Hesford, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

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OBITUARY

CARY GRANT

Ageless charmer with infallible comic touch

Cary Grant, British-born film star who became an American citizen in 1943, died at Davenport, Iowa, on November 29 (local time). He was 82.

Tall, suave and with dark good looks - though his hair eventually turned snow-white - he had a limited range as an actor. But within the genres that suited him best, the sophisticated comedy and comedy-thriller, he was supreme.

His easy and relaxed playing concealed a magnificent technique, and he was often compared with the English stage actor, Gerald du Maurier, of whom it was said that he excelled at being himself.

Grant's basic screen persona was of the romantic charmer and he was teamed successfully with a generation of the screen's leading ladies from Jean Harlow and Katharine Hepburn to Ingrid Bergman, Grace Kelly, Sophia Loren and Leslie Caron.

But in the hands of gifted directors like George Cukor, Alfred Hitchcock (his own favourite) and Howard Hawks the Grant character often took on an extra dimension, acquiring a hint of vulnerability and even anarchy.

His voice was unique, with an accent attributable to no country or region. It was neither English nor American, nor even mid-Atlantic. Clipped but with some rather extravagant vowel sounds, it went well with the character of a mysterious lover, whose caustic and cynical manner concealed reserves of passion.

Grant's comic gifts were best employed in the series of screwball comedies he made with Hawks. In films like *Bringing Up Baby*, *I Was a Male War Bride* and *Monkey Business*, the humour largely stems from placing him in a humiliating situation, whether coping with a baby leopard, being forced to dress up as a woman, or taking a drug which produces a reversion to childhood.

Another constant factor in these films is that Grant is outwitted by the opposite sex - an uncomfortable experience for the screen's great lover. George Cukor helped him out his talent for comedy in pictures like *Sylvia Scarlett*, *Holiday* and *The Philadelphia Story*, while Hitchcock cast him successfully in a number of his lighter thrillers, including *Notorious*, *To Catch a Thief* and the classic *North by Northwest*, which contains the famous sequence of Grant menaced by a crop-dusting plane in a lonely cornfield.

The ending of another Hitchcock film, *Suspicion*, had to be changed because it was felt that the public would not accept Grant as a murderer.

Even in the slightest of his pictures, he could be relied on for a performance of faultless comic technique, and he carried his years lightly. His riposte to the fan magazine editor who called to him, "How old Cary Grant?" is legendary: "Old Cary Grant? How young?"

He was born in Bristol on January 18, 1904, son of a clothes presser, but grandson (on his father's side) of an actor. His real name was

and *Penguin* (1977), based on the early work but incorporating a wealth of colourful anecdotes.

After relinquishing his post with *Discovery* in 1929, he became special lecturer at Bristol University's zoology department. During the war he served as a radio officer with Anti-Aircraft Command and, later, doing secret work on radar for the Pathfinder force.

He returned to Bristol after the war, continuing his research on mammals. In 1951 he was appointed scientific director of the Zoological Society of London, a post he held until his retirement in 1966.

He followed his early work on whales with an important study of the spotted hyena (he once enjoyed the epithet "Hyena Matthews"), whose peculiar hermaphroditic character he was the first to explain, and he went on to publish papers on moles, bats, cats and many other animals.

But the study of seals, which he first began during his time in South Georgia, remained his special favourite, and he joined his friend, Humphrey Haver, in the first serious investigation of British seals. Another deservedly popular book, *The Seals and the Scientists* (1979), came out of this work.

Everything that he wrote was accessible to his readers. His Collins "New Naturalist" volume, *British Mammals* (1952), fired an immense enthusiasm for the study of mammals in this country.

Matthews was excellent company, always able to find an appropriate yarn from his many journeys to distant places. He assembled a remarkable library, and his study was full of curious collected on his travels.

He married Dorothy Hélène Harris in 1924. She survives him, with a son and daughter.



Alexander Archibald Leach.

As a boy he frequented the Bristol Hippodrome, being initially more interested in the electrical side of stage work than in becoming a performer. But before long, without his parents' permission, he joined a troupe of acrobats as a tumbler and stilt-walker, and while still only 16 he travelled with the troupe to America.

He stayed there for three years, for a time selling neckties, and also working as a sandwich man.

He also began to get jobs as an actor, and during the 1920s he alternated between the British and American theatres, mostly in musical comedy and vaudeville. He had a screen test with Paramount but the studio turned him down because of his thick neck and bow legs.

But Paramount later changed its mind and put him under contract. In 1932 he made his screen debut in a musical, *This Is the Night*. In the next few years he averaged half-a-dozen pictures a year, but it was not until near the end of the decade that he emerged as a major star.

An important influence on his early career was the flamboyant Mae West, who taught him much about the craft of comedy in the course of appearing with him in *She Done Him Wrong* and *I'm No Angel*. Though he had to suffer the inevitable crop of routine pictures to fulfil his contract with the studio, he did manage to appear opposite Dietrich in *Blonde Venus*, Katharine Hepburn in *Sylvia Scarlett*, and Jean Harlow in *Suey*.

By the late 1930s, with comedies like *Topper*, *The Awful Truth*, *Bringing Up Baby* (with Hepburn again) and another Hawks picture, *Only Angels Have Wings* (which features a memorable verbal duel between Grant and Jean Arthur), he was indisputably one of Hollywood's big stars.

Further pictures enhanced his position: yet another Hawks comedy, *His Girl Friday*, a re-make of the famous newspaper play, *The Front Page*, with Rosalind Russell, *The Philadelphia Story* and *Suspicion*. There was a tailor-made part for him in Frank Capra's version of the celebrated black comedy, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of the cockney hero of Richard Jewell's *None But the Lonely Heart*.

He never, in fact, won an Oscar for an individual performance, but he was given a special award in 1970 for "his

unique mastery of the art of screen acting". In making the presentation, Frank Sinatra said: "Cary has so much skill that he makes it all look easy".

The casting of Grant as the songwriter Cole Porter in *Night and Day* was not a success, but he generally managed to choose his pictures shrewdly, and the late 1940s and early 1950s saw him in *Notorious*, *I Was a Male War Bride* and *Monkey Business*. He also appeared in two pictures with a young actress, Betsy Drake, whom he discovered and later married.

But by 1953, with Hollywood reeling under the first impact of television, Grant (along with some other major stars) came near to being written off by both the industry and the fans, and he was absent from the cinema for two years.

Hitchcock brought him back, opposite Grace Kelly, in *To Catch a Thief*, and it became immediately apparent that his screen obituary was premature. (The film, made on location in Monaco, had important consequences for Miss Kelly, and for the Grimaldi dynasty.) *An Affair to Remember*, *Indiscreet* (a felicitous partnership with Ingrid Bergman), *North by Northwest*, *The Grass is Greener*,

ANALYSIS

Why Carless pins its hopes on oil haven in Dorset

As the name of the New Zealand entrepreneur, Mr Ron Brierley, first started to appear on Carless, Capel & Leonard's register of shareholders, Mr Ian Clubb, the managing director, said he was "pleased to see you take the same view as we do of Carless's future. Come and see us the next time you are in London."

Not all investors share the City's obsession with short-term share price performance. Some are prepared to take a three-year view, rather than a three-month view. And if the company in question is taken over in the meantime, then the canny investor will not have missed out on the action.

Only a year ago, Carless, Capel & Leonard, the independent oil, gas and solvents firm was a classic example of an ailing company which fell foul of falling oil prices. In expanding its oil and gas interests, principally in America, Carless had become overburdened with debt and was financially stretched.

Its main asset was, and still is, a 7.5 per cent interest in the Wyth Farm oilfield in Dorset, not due to produce meaningful amounts of oil until the second half of 1989. All there was to look forward to was escalating debt to pay for the oilfield development and potentially crippling interest charges.

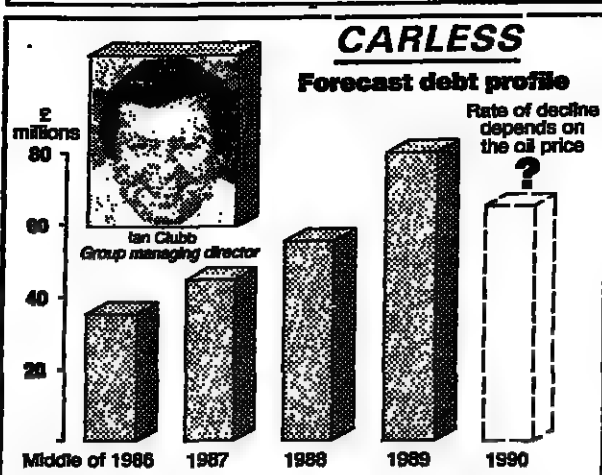
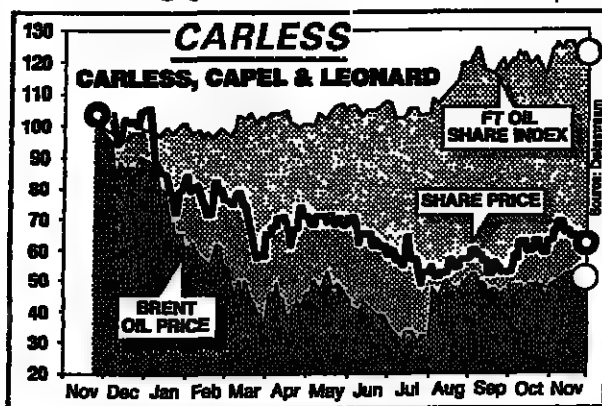
Not surprisingly, its share price reacted in much the same way as the rest of the exploration sector, broadly tracking the oil price for the last year, as the accompanying chart shows.

But unlike some of its fellow explorers, Carless has emerged from the last 12 months in much better shape than it began, having been treated with some strong medicine by Mr Clubb.

It is precisely a year since he took over, enough time to reduce the debt to manageable proportions and to work out a strategy for more than just mere survival until Wyth Farm comes on stream.

To reduce debt, a series of disposals was quickly put in hand. These included Carless's head office building in Cannon Street, in the City, for £6.4 million, its shares in Premier Consolidated Oilfields for £6.6 million, the company flat, two peripheral subsidiaries and a ship.

Then came the disguised rights issue in the shape of the acquisition and liquidation of the Winterbottom Energy Trust last July. Practically 99 per cent of the trust's assets were sold within 24 hours for £30 million to give a small profit on the purchase price of



The company that Ian Clubb has shaped

Carless, Capel and Leonard has interests in three British oil fields - Wyth Farm, (7% per cent), Humble Grove (28.125 per cent), both of which are onshore, and Balmoral (0.96 per cent), an offshore field.

They are estimated to be worth between £50 and £100 million depending on whether an oil price assumption of \$18 a barrel or \$25 is used.

The fuels and solvents businesses are capable of earning between £4.5 million and £5 million pre-tax a year. An earnings multiple of between 8 and 10 values these businesses at between £30 million and £40 million.

Part of the cash was used to pay off the group's sterling debt; the balance of £15 million is on deposit. Carless still has US debts of \$65 million (£42 million) and a net gearing ratio of 37 per cent.

While the group waits for the Wyth Farm offshore oil field to come on stream, it is ready to take advantage of low oil prices by emphasizing its downstream activities, marketing fuels and refining solvents, neither of which relies on high oil prices for profitability. Indeed, low oil

prices release working capital tied up in stocks for use elsewhere in the business.

Mr Clubb and his team are looking at a variety of options for downstream expansion from lubricants and waxes to liquid petroleum gas.

Construction costs at Wyth Farm will cause debt to rise to £60 million by 1989. In the same year, the £19 million second tranche payment for the purchase of the oilfield becomes payable to the Government.

"This will take borrowings up to £80 million," says Mr

Clubb, "but it will only be a short upward blip in our borrowings because Wyth Farm cash flow will quickly allow us to repay our loans. On any reasonable oil price assumption, the debt ratio will be down to 35 per cent by the mid-1990s."

Only the most pessimistic students of the oil scene would regard \$18-\$20 a barrel as unreasonable. Few would quarrel with an analysis which plots rising demand for oil against falling supply allowing some price increases in the 1990s.

Demand is rising because of low oil prices, and non-Opec supply is expected to fall due to low levels of exploration since the oil prices slumped.

When Wyth Farm production rises from its present rate of 5,500 b/d to 60,000 b/d, scheduled for the third quarter of 1989, annual cash flows from Carless's British oil production interests, mainly Wyth Farm, will be more than £20 million before tax on an \$18 a barrel assumption.

The company will be producing oil from Wyth Farm when the price is strong again, says Mr Clubb although he tempers his optimism with caution. "Even at \$15 oil, we can pay the bank but if it stays at \$15 until the year 2000, we will be working for the banks."

Therein lies the risk. But then the share price is only 62p, compared with an asset value of 84p assuming \$18 a barrel oil.

There is always the possibility that the company will be taken over for as Mr Clubb puts it, "everything we are doing is making it more attractive to a predator."

London Merchant Securities, with 15.9 per cent, is the only major shareholder. Other potential interested parties are Powell Duffryn, with 3.2 per cent, and, of course, Ron Brierley who owns 2 per cent.

But in the event of a takeover bid, the new management team may obtain City support. The chairman, Mr John Leonard, has been involving himself less and less while Mr Clubb is introducing professional management techniques into what had been run as a family business.

If it remains independent, the management and shareholders can look forward to the day, only a few years away, when they are able to cash in. Wyth Farm chips, which the shares are only 62p, there is little to fear from the oil price.

Carol Ferguson

US NOTEBOOK

A GNP nil growth rate is in prospect

From Maxwell Newton New York

The fourth quarter continues to look much worse than was expected by Wall Street analysts. There is now a definite prospect that its real gross national product will show no growth at all.

This is due to two main factors. First, the rate of domestic motor sales in October and the first two-thirds of November averaged 6.5 million, or only two-thirds of the September quarter rate.

As four-fifths of the increase in total sales in the third quarter was the result of motor sales on low interest terms, the fourth quarter may be seen as revealing at last the true underlying weakness of the US economy.

The second factor causing economic weakness in this quarter is the continued stagnation of the manufacturing industry's output. In October there was a 6 per cent drop in durable goods orders received by manufacturers.

Much was made of the 9.4 per cent rise in unmanufactured goods exports in October. But imports of manufactured goods rose 7.4 per cent. As the value of manufactured imports is just under twice exports, the trade deficit (92 per cent of the total trade deficit) rose from \$10.45 billion in September to \$11.05 billion in October.

Due to the large surplus in imports, industrial production is stagnant. And the drop in durable goods orders in October suggests industrial production may actually begin to decline.

As the West Germans and Japanese have succeeded in arresting - and reversing - the decline in the dollar against OECD currencies, the prospects for a rapid decrease in imports are not good. In the past month the Japanese have succeeded in pressuring the US Treasury into accepting without demur a 6 per cent devaluation of the yen. As companies like Nissan and Sony are still being hurt, further devaluations can be expected. The dollar having risen from 154 yen in mid October to 164 in mid November, the path is now clear for a Japanese "shock" attack designed to push the yen up to 180.

The bond market has taken all this recent evidence of economic weakness as a good reason to increase prices. Since October 24, the cash US 10 year note has risen from 99 1/2 to 100 1/2, the cash US 30 year bond has risen from 94 1/2 to 100 1/2, and the December Treasury bond contract has risen from 96 to 99 1/2.

The rise has been grinding. At the slightest sign of any dot of inflation on the horizon the "icky trigger finger" teenagers who seem to do so much of US bond trading, have reverted to panic selling. At the least, this teeny bopper control of trading has kept the Federal Reserve Bank honest. The central bank has long abandoned its "gunnery" policies of March-August.

The numbers for Britain, on the other hand, were treated with cynicism. The current account's return to surplus in October and the

GILT-EDGED

Stage set for two steps to change perceptions

In the last couple of weeks, when bond markets elsewhere in the world have enjoyed a modest rally, London's gilts have again been disappointingly dull.

What has caused the aberrant behaviour of the local market is not at all clear. The knee-jerk explanations - the opinion polls, the current account, the outlook for inflation - are far from convincing.

Excuses

How can it be argued that the rational fund manager is really worrying about slippage in the Government's popularity when he is apparently so unconcerned about developments on the other side of the Atlantic?

If political factors were important to the peace of mind of the bond markets, the swing to the Democrats in the recent Congressional elections would have caused significant jitters among Treasury bonds and the latest scandals concerning arms deals with Iran would have provoked a blood-bath.

The fact that they did not suggests that the market in general is not so influential and implies that local considerations of this sort are unlikely to be at the root of the gilt market's malaise.

In any event, the objective analyst will have noted that the result of the latest opinion surveys shows no statistically significant departure from the previous trend. There is no reason to believe that the Government's steady revival in popularity has come to an end. Moreover, in virtually every case for which we have data, there is an improvement in the incumbents' ratings in the months immediately before an election.

The same sort of "double standard" in the logic applied to the two sides of the Atlantic is apparent in the analysis of balance of payments situations. If we are to believe the press, the whole world is filled with pessimism due to the prospect of deficits in Britain, while it looks on indulgently at the reality of gigantic imbalances in the United States.

The prejudice in interpretation was particularly marked after the recent announcement of each country's returns for October. On the one hand, commentators were pleased to perceive an improvement in the month-to-month numbers in the US, even though the data is not seasonally adjusted and the improvement was the result of a downwards revision to the earlier period.

The numbers for Britain, on the other hand, were treated with cynicism. The current account's return to surplus in October and the

upwards revision to the data for earlier months were regarded with suspicion as they were largely the result of changes in the invisible accounts.

There has, of course, always been an element of prejudice in Britain relating to the service sectors, but it seemed to be particularly virulent this time. Perhaps this was because so few people anticipated what was a thoroughly predictable shift in the invisible balance.

Mainly due to the lower oil price and the reduced profits of foreign oil companies operating in the North Sea, the adjustment probably has a lot further to go.

On inflation the picture is less clear but not entirely bleak. Admittedly, consumer prices are rising slightly more quickly in Britain than elsewhere in the industrial world, but there are no grounds for supposing the gap will widen. On the contrary, it is possible that conditions here will regress towards the international norm.

Pay settlements are the key in this respect. In the past, over-generous rises seem to have been the problem. Accordingly, signs that the new pay round is providing deals a percentage point or two below those of last year must be good news.

Taken in the context of productivity advances, which will not lie down - they continue to exceed the consensus forecast as well as outstripping those achieved in most of the rest of the world - the prospects are encouraging. The absolute pace of inflation will probably pick up in line with firmer commodity prices, but the relatives could be satisfactory.

Like other neretics, investors often shy away from a reality they do not wish to recognize. They spend their time inventing specious explanations of events to distract them from the grim truth.

It is only after a painful period of introspective examination that they can be brought to acknowledge the genuine situation. For the gilt market at the moment, the reality is that economic demand is strong, with the pace of GNP growth running ahead much more rapidly than has yet been recognized. It is the growth of demand - faster than in most of the world - which has kept borrowers eager for credit. We all know that credit has been available in enormous quantities, and we all know that this availability has not bid down interest rates.

What many of us are

reluctant to admit though is that it is the voracious appetite of the borrower that lies at the root of the phenomenon. What, we must also ask ourselves, are the borrowers doing with the money?

And, however unpleasant the truth, we have ultimately to admit that they are spending it. Not content with the heady pace of growth of their real incomes, they are buoying their spending still further on the back of borrowed money!

It is the growth in the economy, moreover, which explains the startlingly good performance of corporate profits on the one hand, and of Government tax collections on the other. Without that growth, companies would have found themselves squeezed by overseas competition and high pay settlements.

The heightened pace of output, however, and the productivity surge which accompanied it, enabled industrialists to work the miracle of simultaneously rapid growth with personal and corporate earnings. Equally, it was the surge in activity which generated all the extra income tax, valued added tax and corporation tax which kept the PSBR under reasonable control.

The monthly returns show a consistent pattern of revenues exceeding budget forecasts, but the timid human mind tried desperately to block out the logical explanation.

Outlook

While the excess growth lasts, competition for credit will keep interest rates high and gilt prices low. In the medium term we could look for some respite in the form of more moderate economic advances, but the means to that end - probably tighter credit controls - would temporarily intensify still further the negative influences on the gilt market.

While the prejudice against the London bond market persists, we are unlikely to have international investors bidding up price levels. The bottom line is thus likely to be an unexciting market, although one which offers excellent returns to the open-minded investor.

When perceptions will come back into line with reality - causing a relative appreciation in price levels here - is anybody's guess, but we would plump for a two-stage process: the first early in the new year and the second in the aftermath of a Conservative election victory.

Roger Nightingale
The author is economics director at stockbroker Hoare Govett

Gold shares tipped for a quick turn

By Richard Lander

Despite the present sag in the gold price, several stockbrokers are currently recommending South African gold mines ahead of the main dividend declaration season.

Yields on South African mines are particularly attractive at present because dividends are paid at the commercial rand rate, which is roughly twice value of the financial rand.

In addition, the dividends will reflect the high gold prices

received by the mines in recent months while the shares themselves have slipped lately. The FT Gold share index has retreated about 15 per cent from its 1986 peak set two months ago.

The tone for this dividend season was set by the Anglovaal mining house which announced last week that interim dividends at its Eastern Transvaal Consolidated and Hartbeestfontein mines had risen by 25 and 33 per cent from last year.

But some brokers are steer-

ing clear of South Africa in the short term. The withdrawal of funds by Barclays (and other companies) from South Africa is likely to bring pressure to bear on the financial rand over the next few weeks," said Mr Graham Birch of Kleinwort Grieveson.

According to Mr Richard Harris, an analyst at the stockbroker, L. Messel, there are several mines declaring dividends over the next few weeks which stand on a prospective annual yield of about 20 per cent.

Mr Harris considers investors can make a quick 10 per cent gain through dividend stripping by buying the shares a few days before the dividend is declared and selling the day they go ex-dividend.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

"The withdrawal of funds by Barclays (and other companies) from South Africa is likely to bring pressure to bear on the financial rand over the next few weeks," said Mr. Abraham Birch of Kleinwort Benson.

MONEY MARKET

Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 11
Finance House 11½
Discount Market Lending %

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check against the daily dividend figure. If a match, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Cash or Div
1	First Leisure	Leisure	
2	Simon Eng	Industrial S-Z	
3	Deva (Godfrey)	Industrial S-Z	
4	Bentley	Industrial S-Z	
5	Scot Greaves	Industrial S-Z	
6	Ward White	Industrial S-Z	
7	Scot Greaves	Industrial S-Z	
8	Scot Greaves	Industrial S-Z	
9	FKI	Industrial S-Z	
10	Wintour	Industrial S-Z	
11	Bank of Ireland	Banking	
12	Vibropast	Building/Roads	
13	Centrust	Building/Roads	
14	Mercury	Building/Roads	
15	Mercury	Building/Roads	
16	Mercury	Building/Roads	
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47	Mercury	Building/Roads	
48	Mercury	Building/Roads	
49	Mercury	Building/Roads	
50	Mercury	Building/Roads	

Please be sure to take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS	Price	Change	Div	Yield
Black & White	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Black & White	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

UNDATED	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INDEX-LINKED	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

UNDATED	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

UNDATED	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

UNDATED	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

UNDATED	Price	Change	Div	Yield
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100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INDEX-LINKED	Price	Change	Div	Yield
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 24. Dealings end Friday, 5. Contango day December 8. Settlement day December 15.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E are calculated on the middle price

Company	Price	Change	Gross Div	Yield	P/E
1. Anglo Saxon	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Anglo Saxon	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Gross Div	Yield	P/E
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49.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
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49.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
49.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
49.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
49.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
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49.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
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49.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
49.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
49.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
49.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	0	

حكمة من الامم

Portfolio
GoldDaily Dividend
£4.000ms required for
+50 points
should ring 0254-53272

Country	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	9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The man with big spenders in his sights

Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, has the sort of job security ordinary mortals can only dream about.

He can be sacked only by the Queen herself and then only after an address from both Houses of Parliament.

It is a wise precaution. Sir Gordon's job is to be a critic. His target is anyone (with the exceptions of the nationalized industries and local government) who uses or benefits from the public purse.

He is, in the words of Whitehall-watcher Peter Hennessy, the man who provides MPs on the Public Accounts Committee with loaded pistols to fire at Whitehall's permanent secretaries summoned before them to account for their financial stewardship.

Reports pour out of his offices at a rate of one every week or 10 days throughout the parliamentary session, and they pull no punches, so Sir Gordon needs his protection.

His title is, in fact, an abbreviation. The full name of the office — though even its holder finds it hard to remember — is Comptroller General of the Receipt and Issue of Her Majesty's Exchequer and Auditor General of Public Accounts.

There has been a comptroller around in one form or another since 1314, but the modern-day office of Comptroller and Auditor General really dates from 1866 when the Exchequer and Audit Department was set up.

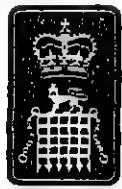
As Comptroller General, he authorizes the issue of public funds to government departments and other public sector bodies. As Auditor General he audits departments' income and expenditure accounts and reports the results to Parliament.

He also — and this is where the Comptroller and Auditor General gets most publicity — has powers to do value for money audits on almost anything he chooses. He is entirely independent of the executive and he alone decides which targets he should go for and how.

One of the most astonishing things about the National Audit Office (the name given to Sir Gordon's unit when the 1983 National Audit Act took the Exchequer and Audit Department out of Whitehall and made it totally independent) is the sheer volume of work that its staff of fewer than 1,000 get through.

The Comptroller is the auditor for nearly 500 public sector accounts whose combined expenditure and revenue run into many billions of pounds. Just taking one section of the work — the annual accounts of government departments — there are 189 of those, spending between them more than £100 billion a year.

On top of the straight financial audits the office publishes between 30 and 40 major value-for-money reports a year. These are the



The office looks for economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.

ones which create most public interest and the biggest headlines as Sir Gordon and his officials probe everything from defence procurement ("MoD accused of £938 million overspending") to the National Health Service ("Too many nurses in wrong jobs").

One report a week while Parliament is in session may seem like a heavy workload, but Sir Gordon insists that it is still modest in terms of the amounts of public money being spent.

There are still major areas of government activity that the office may only be able to look at on a cycle of eight to 10 years.

The value for money audits are a crucial democratic check, ensuring that anyone who has access to public money is accountable in a very public way.

The Comptroller is looking for more than just horror

stories, the classic cases of waste and extravagance. Today the reports on major areas of government activity are more rounded, giving plus points as well as minus ones, since knowing that you are doing things right can be just as important as knowing where, and how, things have gone wrong.

The office looks for the 'three E's' — economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Economy is looking to see whether a given output can be achieved with the minimum use of resources. That might point to identifying savings in public expenditure.

Efficiency is not necessarily concerned with identifying savings for a given level of output; efficiency can also be improved by increasing the output for a given level of resources. So the investigation will endeavour to find out whether there is an optimum use of resources to get the best possible output.

Effectiveness is really concerned with enquiring whether the Government's objectives in any particular area are being met.

There are limits to what the National Audit Office may investigate and one of the biggest is the restriction that Sir Gordon and his officials may not audit or have direct access to the accounts of nationalized industries or local authorities. Although there is an ability to look indirectly at some aspects of both through, for example, investigations of their sponsoring departments' practices, the restriction blocks major areas from scrutiny.

Sir Gordon obviously dislikes the restriction — few other state audit offices in the world have this restriction placed on them — and both the Public Accounts Committee and backbench MPs have been vocal in their disagreement with the Government.

But the Government's view is that the nationalized industries are already indirectly accountable to Parliament since they are accountable to sponsoring departments and the ministers of those depart-

ments are accountable to Parliament. This view has been rejected by the PAC and others on the grounds that, in practice, accountability by ministers to Parliament is confined to answering questions on specific major policy issues relating to industries — not answering to Parliament for the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the nationalized industries have used resources.

The Comptroller works entirely on behalf of Parliament and says it is for it to decide whether it is satisfied with the remit he has been given, with the nationalized industries embargo.

If he were to be given the power to scrutinize nationalized industries directly he might well make life uncomfortable for the Government, making his job security and independence even more necessary.

"One of the things which we certainly would do, as well as looking at the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization, is to look at whether the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization is being affected by action by others. There are many nationalized industries which would take the position that they could be a great deal more efficient if they weren't subject to a fair amount of intervention by government. This would be quite legitimate for us to look into."

Malcolm Brown



Speaking up: Bernard Weatherill, Speaker of the House of Commons, with Sir Gordon Downey at the opening on Friday of the National Audit Office

Why Sir Edward is after the industries that got away

Sir Edward de Cunn feels an almost familial attachment to the National Audit Office and its predecessor the Exchequer and Audit Department.

He has, after all, been connected with them one way and another for the last 14 years, as both member then chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, which uses the Comptroller's reports as the basis of its own probes, and now as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, the Parliamentary body which oversees the NAO's budget.

The commission was set up under the same 1983 National Audit Act that created the NAO, taking the Comptroller's department out of the Civil Service and reinforcing the Comptroller's operational independence from the executive.

Sir Edward thinks it has been able to help the Comptroller in many very practical ways.

His staff was scattered in 30 offices throughout London. They have now been brought together in one building.

The commission has helped introduce a new salary structure for the staff.

It has elevated the status of the job.

The chief reform Sir Edward would still like to see, but does not expect to happen for some years, is the widening of the Comptroller and Auditor General's remit to take in all public expenditure — in other words embracing direct access to the accounts of the national-

ized industries wouldn't have it. They said "Oh God, we've already got the Government on our backs, we don't want yet another group of people on our backs." One could understand that to an extent.

The result was what Sir Edward calls government "fudge and compromise" with the Government suggesting the Monopolies and Mergers Commission would survey cer-

Time for debate was cut short

tain of the work of the nationalized industries. Then the general election was announced.

"The net result was that the debates on the Bill were truncated and in order to get it through before the general election it was necessary to agree that we couldn't take the full time that we wanted to debate it and have out the possibility of the nationalized

industries coming under the remit of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

"It was a pity," says Sir Edward, "but half a loaf was better than no bread and I have no doubt at all that that Act has been a milestone in the development of the process of audit."

Sir Edward obviously loves the opportunities which the Public Accounts Committee gives MPs to cross question senior civil servants, using the ammunition prepared for them by the Comptroller.

"It is a very salutary manner," he says with satisfaction. "I don't think any senior civil servant relishes the necessity to appear before the Public Accounts Committee and the possibility of damaging publicity for himself as the accounting officer for his department, not only at the moment of the hearing but when the Public Accounts Committee's report is published."

MB



Sir Edward de Cunn: a practical approach

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Double dilemma for Bill's sponsors

Industries which are at present specifically excluded. When Sir Edward and others sponsored the Bill which eventually became the National Audit Act they found themselves faced with a double dilemma.

"I took the view that it should be the duty of Parliament to follow public money wherever it goes, including to the nationalized industries."

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مكتبة الأمل

A whole new life at the old staging post

When the central block of the building now occupied by the National Audit Office was first built Britain had an empire and was peering into the abyss of a threatened Second World War.

It was in 1939 that Imperial Airways opened its building not far from Victoria Station, a staging post for customers before flying them to Europe and further afield.

The site was chosen to give direct access to a rail platform where passengers could board trains for the flying boat based at Southampton. There was even a ballroom for fog-bound passengers.

That ballroom, with its art-deco wall-lined mirrors and wood panelling, still remains, but is now converted into a conference room for, as with the rest of the central block, it is a grade II listed site, unlike the building's two wings.

The National Audit Office began searching for new headquarters soon after its creation in 1984 because it had long outgrown its previous accommodation. Its London-based staff were scattered over 28 locations, hardly the best way of conducting operations for an organization whose *raison d'être* is economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

With approval from government and the Public Accounts Committee, the search began

Main contractors engaged for refurbishing the NAO building:

- Wimpey Construction Management
- Axtell, Yates, Hallett
- How Engineering (Northern) Ltd
- Mansell (Westminster) Ltd

- British Telecom
- Szelemy (UK) Ltd
- Liftman & Co
- Rock Asphalt

Major contractors now supplying services in the headquarters:

- Wang (UK)
- Project
- Girovend Cashless Systems
- Catering and Allied

for a building which would house its 650 London staff, an essential part of the criteria being that it should be within easy distance of Parliament and Whitehall where most of its work is done.

The site it acquired from British Airways on a 127-year lease at a cost of £11.2 million was seen as ideal. Even with refurbishment costs at £13.2 million, the NAO reckons it has achieved value for money.

The annual rental equivalent of the capital cost of financing the acquisition and refurbishment is about 40 per



cent of the average market rent in Victoria.

While the NAO is still examining ways of improving the efficiency of its new headquarters, Chris Beauchamp, director of accommodation and finance, says it has been shown already, since the staff began moving in in February this year, that there has been an improvement in efficiency and quality of the work.

Mr Beauchamp also explained how the NAO went about contracting for the refurbishment in an orthodox fashion, partly in order to speed up the process.

Instead of putting out the various requirements to tender, the NAO brought in Wimpey Construction Management as management consultants which provided the architects, engineers, and

quantity surveyors to formulate the requirements and then found the contractors, but the contractors were directly responsible to the NAO, not Wimpey.

On top of that NAO contracted a firm of quantity surveyors, Axtell, Yates, Hallett to ensure that the National Audit Office was getting value for money. The building now has 400

partitioned offices, with the two wings used by the various divisions and the administrative and technical staff, dealing with finance, personnel, recruitment and training located in the central block, which also houses the Comptroller and Auditor General and his senior managers and advisers.

Michael Hatfield



The National Audit Office in Victoria, left, whose clock tower is a London landmark. Right, the stylish entrance hall

The way to 'interrogate' by computer

One day last month the newspapers carried a remarkable story: Sir Gordon Downey, Comptroller and Auditor General, was able to give only a qualified certificate of approval to the accounts of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Sir Gordon in his report to the Commons said there were "inconsistencies" in statistical information relating to the spending of £35.5 billion on Social Security benefits in 1985-86.

The outcome was that Sir Robert Sheldon, chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, which received the report, was calling on Sir Kenneth Stowe, the department's permanent under-secretary, to come before the PAC to give an explanation as to what had gone wrong.

It is the kind of story that grabs the headlines, but covers only a fraction of the certification work of the National Audit Office. The NAO is responsible for 500 public sector accounts with a combined expenditure and revenue of many billions of pounds.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's certification is based on a financial and regularity audit which enables him to provide annual assurances to Parliament. It covers several areas: that the form and content of the accounts conform to statutory and Treasury requirements, the figures in the accounts are properly stated, the funds have been applied to the services and for the purposes intended by Parliament, the payments and receipts are in accordance with parliamentary authority, statute and other regulations.

Examining every individual account in detail would be a physical impossibility, which is why sophisticated monitoring and sampling techniques have been developed and are constantly being revised to keep abreast of the information that flows in.

Experience over the years has shown that specific areas of accountability will reflect a reasonably accurate picture of an individual account as a whole.

It is not just a question of "going through the books". There are now more than 200 main computer installations in central government and nearly 600 accounting systems. With computer technology changing rapidly, the NAO is continuing to develop and adapt its audit methods.

Examination of computer-based systems is undertaken by the individual audit divisions within the NAO but it also has its own specialists in a computer division who explore the most efficient way of tapping into the various systems so that the office's auditors can extract the information they require.

The NAO is constantly examining ways of developing what it calls "computer

interrogation" techniques.

The biggest spending departments, such as the Ministry of Defence and the DHSS, will come under the NAO auditors' scrutiny several times a year so that there can be a constant check on their accounts, otherwise specific but important items of expenditure could get "lost".

The division overseeing the DHSS, for example, not only has to examine appropriation accounts affecting the National Health Service but also such bodies as the Public Health Laboratory Services Board, or the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, an important organization on which the future of nursing in terms of training and numbers rests.

In the latter case, the NAO discovered in 1983-84 that it was going "broke", or, to use their phraseology, there was a "net excess of expenditure over income".

But the NAO's role is not just confined to an examination of accounts. Its examination is also based on the individual accounting systems of departments, systems of



At the end of a scrutiny the auditors can issue a report

financial control, combined with the test audit of transactions and selected examinations in-depth.

At the end of a scrutiny, the auditors have to certify whether the account "properly presents" — the phrase used in reports to Parliament — the expenditure and receipts, or presents a "true and fair" view for commercial and other accounts.

Should the Comptroller and Auditor General conclude that an account is materially incorrect or irregular or seriously misrepresents the body's results or state of affairs, he will qualify his certificate and explain the reasons either within the certificate or in an accompanying report.

Though a lot of the NAO's work is devoted to certification there has been a gradual move towards devoting greater attention to value-for-money reports where it is possible to give greater examination of a specific matter which could be of concern to Parliament and the public.

An example of this is the loss-making Royal Dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth and to which the NAO has drawn attention, and made recommendations, in reports, concluding with the recommendation that the relationship between the dockyards and the Royal Navy should be conducted on a commercial basis, a suggestion which is now to be implemented.

MH

With technology changing so rapidly, the NAO is continuing to develop and adapt its audit methods, while specialists explore the most efficient way of tapping into the various systems for information

Not just any management contractor could rehouse the National Audit Office.

The rehousing of the National Audit Office at Victoria, London, called for project management skills found only among the country's top management contractors.

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Audit hawks: Robert LeMarchal, John Collins, David Myland, Sir Gordon Downey, Mike Goodson and David Dewar

With central government spending running at about £110 billion a year — 30 per cent of the gross domestic product — it needs a sharp-minded organization to ensure that taxpayers' money is not being mispent.

This is the job of the National Audit Office and its 830 staff, which in 1984 replaced the Exchequer and Audit Department.

And it is not just expenditure that it scrutinizes. There is also the revenue, whether it be Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, or the Royal Mint, amounting to £140 billion a year.

The organization, starting with its head, Sir Gordon Downey, the comptroller and auditor-general, has worked

Sharp eyes that watch spending

out a complex organization so that it can oversee the inner workings of government departments both in certifying their yearly accounts and giving value-for-money reports in specific areas.

Under Sir Gordon there is his deputy, David Myland, and four assistant auditor-generals — John Collins, David Dewar, Mike Goodson and Robert LeMarchal — who, together with the director of policy and planning, Peter Jeffery, form the senior

management team responsible for the corporate strategy of the NAO, based on a five-year rolling work programme.

"Our function is to meet the demands of parliament and give them assurances and advice that departments are discharging their responsibilities efficiently and effectively," said Mr LeMarchal, formerly the director of policy and planning and recently promoted to assistant auditor-general responsible for a number of "line divisions".

Some of these, such as audit guidance, recruitment and training, are support divisions but the bulk, including defence, agriculture, environment and the health services, employ the staff who ferret through departmental accounts or investigate particular schemes (such as government policy on preventive medicine) to ensure that the cash is being properly spent.

There are 24 directors and 28 deputy directors responsible for the overall planning, management and performance of the line audit and other divisions. It is they who, among other functions, come up with ideas for investigation.

Beneath them there are 110 audit managers who are in charge of audit sections with responsibilities for the audit of individual accounts, the conduct of value-for-money and other exercises, and the supervision and training of staff.

Working within these sections there are the people on audit field work, operating individually or in teams. There are 254 senior auditors, 22 auditors, and about 280 assistant auditors, primarily graduate trainees, learning the ropes while they study for three years for entrance to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The balance is made up with clerical and admin staff.

A cause for concern

staff are based in London but others work in Edinburgh as "watchdogs" on the Scottish Office, in Sheffield with the Manpower Services Commission, at Bath overseeing the Navy, or as far afield as Rome and Geneva where the NAO is the auditing body for such organizations as the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and the Food and Agricultural Organization.

The NAO is responsible for some 500 public sector accounts — from the Ministry of Defence to the Victoria and Albert Museum Trust Fund — but one area where it is not allowed access, except in a strictly limited sense, is the nationalized industries.

But this is a matter for government decision, involving statutory implications between sponsoring departments and the independence of the nationalized industries.

MH

The big hunt for talent

Each year a team from the National Audit Office joins the milk round of universities seeking to recruit honours graduates. With a planned five per cent growth in its staff to cope with the work thrown on its resources and the continual loss of personnel attracted by better pay in the private sector, it is a never-ending trail.

What they are looking for, says the NAO's director of recruitment and training, Andy Bell, who was seconded from BP, are graduates who can demonstrate intellectual ability, numeracy, literacy, inquiring minds, confidence, motivation and commitment.

There is never a shortage of applications, but the standards and testing of capability can be tough. From an initial 1,200 applications, 500 will be interviewed at their universities, about 180 will be invited for in-depth interviewing and testing at head office, and about 90 will be chosen.

Four out of five offered a job will accept the invitation to join the NAO, though not all will last the 3½-year training and study programme leading to entrance to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The NAO rates training as one of its top priorities, absorbing 15 per cent of its total £25 million budget.

Brian Baker, director of personnel, says that the fact that the office offers a long-term career with good pay and conditions gives the NAO particular reason to help trainees who will need for their work later on.

Graduates are accepted from different academic disciplines and spend 12 weeks on a graduate conversion course to become conversant with the concepts of public finance, accounting, economics and law.

From there they will spend three years studying for the CIPFA examinations, working alongside senior colleagues in one of the divisions, learning the profession and needs of the NAO.

CIPFA training has several special features. Though the syllabus covers matters common to all the professional accounting bodies, it specializes in the needs of the public sector which, as the recruiting brochure points out, covers half the nation's economic activity.

Second, the training culminates in a test of professional competence which requires students in their final year to carry out a demanding project.

Because they are working as well as studying, NAO meets the difficulties of combining the two by providing for exam preparation to be undertaken largely through periods of block release. This amounts in total to some 50 weeks, either at the CIPFA Education and Training Centre at Croydon or at Liverpool Polytechnic.

In addition, NAO headquarters has its own training centre where staff run in-

house courses to provide training in the day-to-day work of the organization. As well as learning audit techniques and methods, students will attend courses on subjects such as report writing and oral presentation. In total, students spend about 40 per cent of their year in training.

The first professional examination covers much of the commercial accounting that is

Students who fail to pass each stage at the first attempt are given the opportunity to have a second try.

Training, however, does not stop at qualification. To further their careers, and in many cases just to keep up with the job, staff attend training courses and seminars to keep them up to date in new techniques in auditing and methodology.

depends on abilities and motivation. Each promotion brings extra responsibility and increases in salary.

Pay is performance-related, a concept introduced to the NAO in 1984. Every member of staff is monitored by a senior salary increases, if any, are based on individual performance.

If a member of staff is seen not to have maintained his normal standard, judged over a number of years, he may not only forfeit a salary increase but actually face the prospect of a reduction in pay.

Mr Baker said that the main reasons why performance-related pay was introduced was to:

Strengthen staff motivation and encourage performance improvements by more specific and tangible recognition of achieved performance. Recognize, and reward appropriately, differences in contribution between individuals of the same grade. Help the NAO solve the problems of recruitment and retention of audit staff and to enhance the office's ability to attract high calibre recruits. Bring the pay of NAO professional staff more into line with that offered by competing employers.

Mr Baker has no doubts about its success.

Michael Hatfield

The National Audit Office practises what it preaches — efficiency and effectiveness. Training standards are high with an examination pass rate of around 75 per cent. Salaries are related to performance. A poor standard of work over a monitored period can even mean a drop in pay.

common to private and public sector accounting.

This is followed by an examination dealing with public sector accounting, auditing and financial control, policy-making in the public sector and public finance.

The final year includes the project on which the student presents the results of his or her work.

Not all make the grade, but the NAO says its students' record of success in the professional exams has always been substantially higher than for CIPFA as a whole.

The pass rate is usually above 70 per cent and sometimes more than 75 per cent.

During a trainee's first posting, lasting 18 months, the graduate will probably work on certification audit. He or she will be expected to take responsibility progressively and will be given the training needed to exercise it.

After a career-development interview, the second posting, normally for two years, will involve a change of work. During the third-year period, the trainee will prepare a project for part three of the examination.

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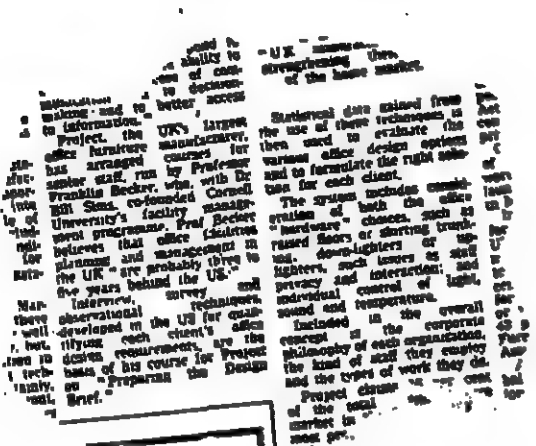
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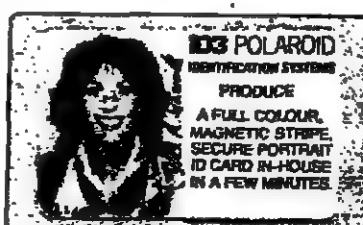
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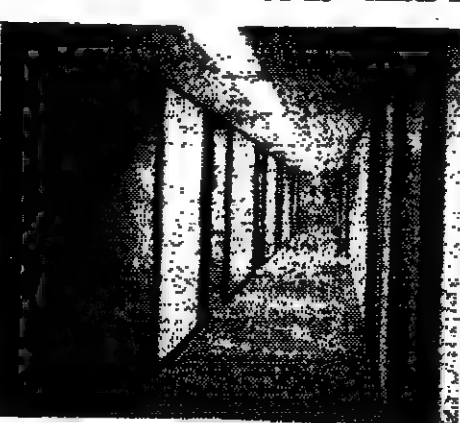
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Robert LeMarchal: the importance of 'three Es'

The watchdogs

One of the most important functions of the National Audit Office, other than its certification of government accounts, is to make sure that the taxpayer is getting value for money. While the appropriation of monies may have been correct, have they been spent wisely?

The main objective of the NAO's value-for-money audits is to provide independent information, advice and assurance to Parliament about economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources in the departments and other organizations examined.

But what do those "three Es" mean in reality? Two assistant auditor generals, John Collins and Robert LeMarchal, put flesh on the concept.

Economy is concerned with minimizing the cost of resources used for an activity, bearing in mind it is related to the quality needed. Does the Ministry of Defence, for example, need all those vast stores of equipment when it would probably be more economical to buy some of its supplies direct as needs demand?

Efficiency is concerned with the relationship between the output in terms of goods, services or other results and the resources used to produce them.

Effectiveness is concerned with the relationship between the intended impact and the actual impact of an activity. David Dewar, assistant auditor general, gave as one example the redundancy compensation payments to university staff as part of the policy to reduce university costs.

While it is not the responsibility of the NAO to judge whether such a policy is correct or not, what it did find was that those who took up the scheme were more often the young and bright lecturers who could probably find employment elsewhere, with the result that the universities were left with an age imbalance.

When the Public Accounts Committee took up the matter with the Department of Education and Science, the department responded with the view that "not all possible ways of relieving the pressures on universities were fully explored and that satisfactory protection was not afforded to those subjects it was intended to protect."

It also stated that it had

"introduced new measures to encourage the recruitment of new blood."

It is with these kind of value-for-money reports that the NAO hopes to achieve its constructive aim of eliminating waste or inefficiency and increasing the effectiveness of expenditure through the "promotion of sound systems and procedures."

Clearly it is impossible to do an in-depth, value-for-money study of every aspect of government expenditure, which is why it looks at issues of public concern and on which the Public Accounts Committee would be able to carry out an effective examination.

Some of the value-for-money exercises will be cyclical, the NAO returning to areas of public concern at regular intervals. Multi-role combat aircraft, major defence projects, are often the subject of reports to Parliament; civil programmes, such as road construction, receive regular scrutiny; the staffing and manpower costs of the National Health Service are under constant review; and the taxation and revenues from North Sea oil fall within the ambit of the NAO.

Value-for-money reporting is not new, but what has changed is that they are becoming not only more important but also the approach has been given a different emphasis in recent years.

While still the "watchdog" of Whitehall and its outposts, the NAO is no longer just "the policeman on the beat" looking out for glaring errors in accountability but giving a more balanced review of individual accounts.

The change was brought about because Whitehall and Parliament thought an unfair account was being given of the internal auditing by departments; in other words, not everything was black in the accounting procedures. So when a NAO value-for-money audit is presented, the phases as well as the minuses are represented.

They include research, development and production for major capital programmes, financial and contractual control over major capital works projects, control and utilization of fixed assets and other resources, costs of administration and support services, and the effectiveness of grants, subsidies, loans, agricultural and industry support and overseas aid.

Michael Hatfield

Healthy checks that can save millions

It used to be relatively easy to calculate the impact of the Comptroller and Auditor General on public expenditure.

For many years his value-for-money investigations were mainly into individual large cases of waste or extravagance or bad management.

A price tag would be put on that failing — the archetypal case, in the 1960s, was the huge overpayment to Ferranti for Bloodhound missiles — and it could reasonably be assumed that chastened officials would not repeat their mistakes and would improve their control procedures.

More recently an increasing proportion of value-for-money audits have been of a much more broad-based type instead of simply investigating faults and weaknesses they are intended to provide positive reports and assurances as well, telling Parliament where Whitehall's strengths are, as well as its weaknesses.

The traditional reports used to concentrate heavily on the criteria of economy and efficiency. These are equally present today but have had added to them the additional dimension of effectiveness.

Economy and efficiency may be relatively easy to quantify financially — effectiveness is much more difficult, yet its impact is immense.

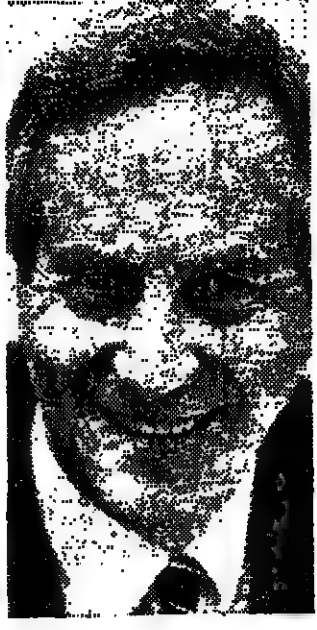
Doing things well (economically and efficiently) is obviously desirable, but if the thing that you are doing is not achieving its objectives then the whole exercise is rather pointless.

David Dewar, one of the Assistant Auditors General, sums it up in an epigram that is much quoted by senior NAO officials.

"There is some merit in doing the right things rather badly," he says. "There is no merit at all in doing the wrong things exceptionally well."

The larger-scale broadly based value-for-money audits do not just involve a different product from the older style reports, the way they are done is also quite different.

Mr Dewar calls the traditional, "waste and extravagance" audits (some of which, of course, are still done in cases of what looks like culpable waste) the *bottom-up* approach.



Getting value for money across a wide area of public spending is the main aim and includes the Health Service and defence (Tornado, left); above, David Dewar, Assistant Auditor General

"This had a lot of strengths because it was highly directed and pointed very closely at specific weaknesses that were clearly worth improving and correcting because they had caused major havoc."

But it also had major limitations. "It took it only so far and it identified those weaknesses that had gone wrong in a particular case. Not every case tested every weakness, so there could be another major weakness that had not been shown up by this particular case."

So one control system, on defence expenditure, say, might have had, in reality, half a dozen inherent weaknesses, but, in the nature of things, only two or three of those would be exposed in any one instance of waste or extravagance. They would be highlighted but the other weaknesses would remain uncovered until, by chance, the next "horror story" came to light.

The result was a "patchwork" of correction and remedy.

Today, says Mr Dewar, the

office tends to adopt a much more *top down* approach.

Instead of saying "Is the system right?" by finding examples of where it went wrong the NAO is trying to judge whether the system is sound.

To do so it adopts a much more structured approach:



Broad-based positive reports and assurances

Analysing how control systems work, the risks involved to economy, efficiency and effectiveness, and how significant those risks are in varying circumstances, then testing the controls against reality.

If the NAO, for instance, were examining how the MoD participated in multi-national defence procurement schemes where several countries were involved in building a particular weapon, it would want to examine things like the sort of controls that were built in to

ensure that Britain got its fair share of the work, and the accounting methods used by all the parties, and would then try to say where the risks were: what happens if costs start to escalate?

What is the possibility of labour disputes? How are contractual disputes between the various parties handled?

The objective should be an assurance that the system works and that a larger volume of business going through those controls will be dealt with satisfactorily.

"We're testing out the sausage machine," says Mr Dewar, "so it gives you better assurances that all or most of the sausages coming through it are going to be of the right standard."

NAO officials believe their work is highly regarded both in Whitehall — where there is a high acceptance level of their recommendations — and in Parliament where the Public Accounts Committee devours their reports and often uses them as the basis for their own investigations.

"If we produced work which

the PAC didn't like I don't think they'd be slow to tell us," says Robert LeMarchal, another of the Assistant Auditors General.

The departments being audited would also sound off if the office produced slipshod analyses.

"They have to be soundly-based reports," says Mr LeMarchal. "If there was the least bit of inaccuracy in any of our reports at the draft stage, or if they were in the least bit superficial, departments like the MoD would come down on you like a ton of bricks."

This points up the difference between the auditor and the consultant, says Mr LeMarchal.

"The consultant is brought in by a department like the MoD, so the consultant doesn't have to persuade the department concerned that there's an area of weakness there. They point it out to the consultant. We, because we're external to the department, have to work a bit harder at it."

The savings that NAO

recommendations can produce are only one measure of its effectiveness and a rather crude one at that, but the annual reports of the Public Accounts Commission, the parliamentary body which oversees the office's budget, nevertheless make impressive reading.

In the latest one, published this summer, the commission gives some examples of how the NAO is having an impact on public expenditure:

● On economy it has drawn attention to improved NHS stores purchasing methods which could save the Department of Health and Social Security £75 million a year.

● On efficiency the NAO has pointed out possible savings on the maintenance of RAF equipment, costing £1,500 million annually.

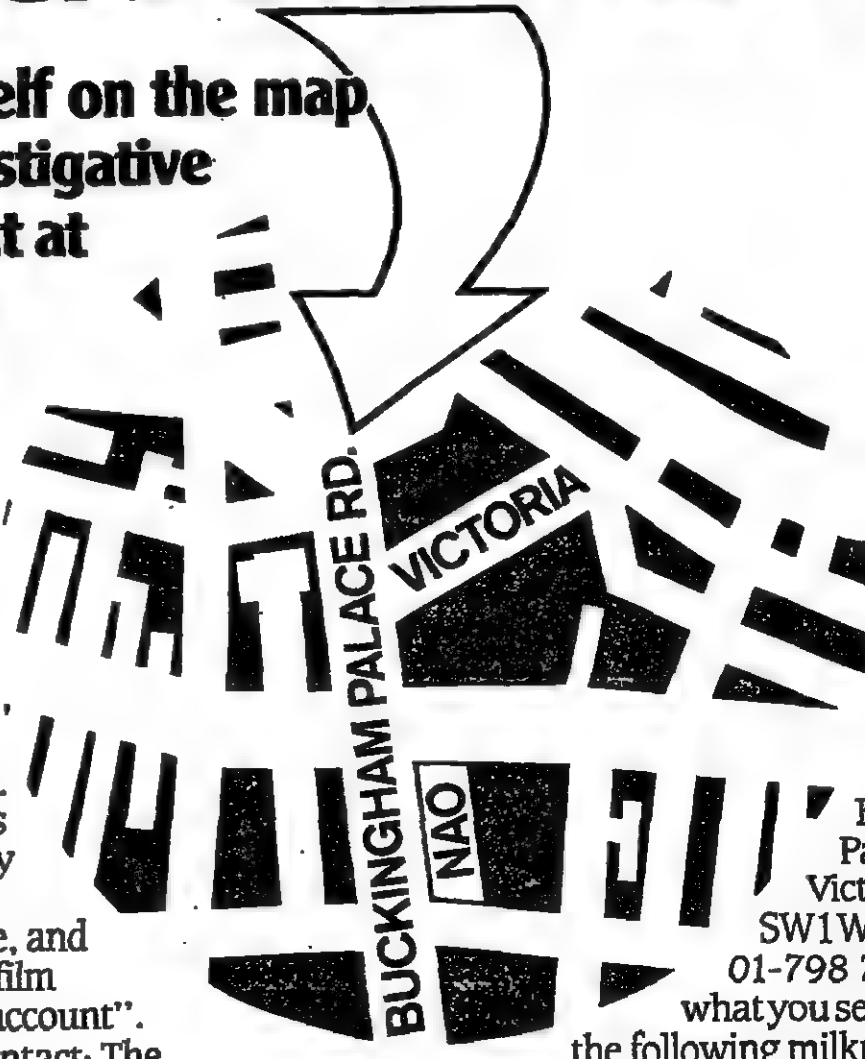
● As to effectiveness, an examination of the £800 million a year motorway and trunk road programme and the £300 million urban roads programme uncovered widespread weaknesses.

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- 11 Bangor/Queens
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A guide to
career choice

Dressing up for all to see

Joan Llewelyn
Owens looks at the
rewards in
selling the image
of a store
or company

Shop windows at Christmas are pieces of theatre which draw the crowds and make children gasp in delight. Of course, they give pleasure and create a seasonal atmosphere, but their main purpose is to sell and to project the image of the store or company.

There are people who specialise in display design, in persuading us to buy goods or services. And they, in turn, usually specialise in one of three fields: retail display, point of sale and advertising display, and exhibition design.

The main essentials for a display designer, whatever the speciality, are being able to think three-dimensionally, and being a practical person who can make things and put ideas on paper. Display designers must have a knowledge of materials of all kinds and their capabilities and of sources of supply. In both retail and exhibition design they will often have to co-ordinate builders, electricians and plumbers.

They work to a brief and a budget. Their displays must be in accordance with the policy of their employer or client, so they cannot always give their imagination free rein, but they do get a kick from looking at what they have created and saying, "I was responsible for that".

In stores, window display is but the tip of the iceberg.

of the iceberg, often echoing a theme which is seen throughout the store. There has been a great deal of thought before anything is placed in a window. Christmas schemes in the big stores are planned a year ahead.

"We create atmosphere," says Ivan Tremayne, who was brought in to head a new display department at Sanderson's of Berners Street, London W1. Previously he was display manager of Jolly's in Bath. After talks with Sanderson's management he worked closely with an architect on the layout of their showrooms, their aim being to provide space where customers could relax and have time to think about their furnishings schemes.

"To help them," he explains, "I design fully three-dimensional room sets." The plan for the next 12 months was six room settings. New rooms are planned whenever there is a new collection. Mr Tremayne selects papers and fabrics, then goes to management with a recommendation that they should be doing a particular type of room.

He showed me a sketch of a scheme for a summer garden room with a new striped fabric in pinks and greens, which was co-ordinated with a new wallpaper. When he presented the drawings, he would also provide costings for materials, fabrics, labour, etc, and only when these were approved could he go ahead.

Whenever Mr Tremayne designs a room set, he imagines the sort of person who would live in it, and scours London for suitable furniture and accessories.

Sofa cushions, lampshades, etc, are made for the firm by their own manufacturers. Everything is for sale, even the pictures he has chosen. What did surprise him was when a customer insisted on buying the straw hats left lying on the beds of the young girls' room, in which blue and yellow fabrics and papers were featured.

The Sanderson's team consists of a senior dresser and two display assistants, one of whom is in charge of graphics, ticketing and accountancy. But at Harrod's, with floors 4 1/2 acres in extent, there are 50 in the team, split up into smaller teams for individual floors and groups of windows.

When I spoke to Philip Slayter, company display co-ordinator, the Christmas windows were nearly complete. The theme — a fairy-tale castle in the distance, gradually coming nearer until one eventually saw interior scenes — had been dreamed up by John McKitterick, display manager. The scenery, reindeer, sleighs, etc, were made by a specialist company, but the display staff sorted out make-up and wigs (all in iridescent colours) for the mannequins. Individual garments were suggested by members of the team and approved by Mr Slayter after consultation with buyers.

Mr Slayter's particular brief is to supervise all window displays and all the apparel side of the business rather than furnishing and household. The following day he would be seeing the buyer of bridal gowns because they would put on a bridal promotion after the February sale, with a special scheme in the central hall as well as window displays and a fashion show.

Across the road from Harrod's is a Warehouse shop, catering mainly for people in their early 20s. Chris Willey is display manager, heading a team of seven which travels the country, dressing windows and interiors of the group's 25 shops. Until the group grew so large, they used to make everything in the windows themselves, but now they normally construct a prototype window scheme and have it copied.

But the display team often make their own jewellery, sometimes while travelling from one store to another, and they go in search of new materials and shops where they can buy props secondhand and refurbish these themselves.

Practically every store, garage, bank,

building society, etc, contains some point of sale and advertising display. This consists of simple banners and stickers, cards and signs, and merchandising units of all sizes, often containing goods such as cosmetics. All these must be designed, which gives scope for visualisers, finished artists and for three-dimensional designers, and people who can make prototypes in a wide range of materials, from wood to plastics.

They are employed by firms which produce point of sale advertising, by the larger retailers, and some are freelancers. There is a shortage of good people. Although some of the work — product and price posters — is boring, "you have the same excitement as in advertising in trying to dress up ideas which actually work," claims Derek Down, managing director of Display Craft.

Exhibition design involves the design of both exhibition stands and conference sets. Some stands may be two-deckers, so a knowledge of the strength of structural materials is essential. Much of the work is eye-catching. At the Motor Show, for instance, there are three-dimensional structures using lights, lasers and videos. The growth in the exhibition industry means good job opportunities both with design firms and with contractors.

"Our task," says Charles Shelton of Shelton Fleming Associates, "is essentially one of design and overall co-ordination. On every stand, one of us will go on site during the building-up period, to see the project through to completion. It can involve almost an Army manoeuvre when one client wants 10 sets for 10 small conferences, all starting on the same day at the same time."

Initially, all contracts are tendered for, but satisfied clients just phone and ask the firm to submit a design. Deadlines, of course, are tight and must be adhered to.

Mr Shelton went to the College for the Distributive Trades to do a BTEC National Diploma in display design. Many other top people in this field, particularly in retail display, have worked their way up from the shop floor, without any college training. But it is becoming more difficult to do this. Most employers look for people with the specialist qualifications provided by either BTEC or the British Display Society and colleges report a sustained demand for their students.

This type of design does not provide an easy ride. Hours can be long and irregular. Working in a shop window in a heavy coat or on a freezing day is physically demanding and there is always a lot of humping about of bins and pieces. But all I have met have been enthusiastic about their work. And perhaps that is the secret. One must love creating displays, however ephemeral.

Exhibition industry growth
means job opportunities

design firms and with contractors.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL
LECTURER
IN
ORGANISATIONAL
BEHAVIOUR

London Business School intends to appoint a Lecturer in Organisational Behaviour. Preference will be given to candidates with teaching and research interests in interpersonal, group and cultural dynamics.

The successful candidate will have teaching experience, a developed area of research interest and professional practice in Business and or the Public Sector. He or she will be expected to contribute to the range of post-graduate and post-experience courses in the School, advance his or her research activities and carry out the appropriate consultancy. A doctorate in Social Psychology or Anthropology and publications are minimal requirements.

Salary on the scale £15,120-£17,625 (inclusive of London Allowance). Further details if required, may be obtained from Professor John W Hunt. Closing date for applications: 24 December, 1986.

Applications with C.V. and citing two referees should be sent to:

Professor John W Hunt
London Business School
Sussex Place
Regent's Park
London
NW1 4SA

LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL



THE WEST OF SCOTLAND
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
& UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
(The Scottish Agricultural Colleges)
PRINCIPAL
OF THE COLLEGE AND
PROFESSOR OF AGRICULTURE

Applications are invited for the post of Principal of The West of Scotland Agricultural College and Professor of Agriculture in the University of Glasgow, which will become vacant on 1 October, 1987. Nominations with regard to potential candidates will be welcomed. Candidates should have appropriate qualifications, a broad knowledge of agriculture and preferably have had wide experience in the organisation of agricultural education, research and advisory work. Further guidelines and application forms may be obtained from the Personnel Office, The West of Scotland Agricultural College, Auchincloss, Ayr, KA9 5WY, with whom applications should be lodged not later than Friday 9 January, 1987.

UNIVERSITY OF
ESSEX

Department of Electronic
Systems Engineering
Senior Lectureship/Readership in
Digital Communications

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer/Reader in Digital Communications (salary scale £14,870 - £18,625 per annum, under review).

The Department of Electronic Systems Engineering has a strong commitment to research and excellent industrial links. Areas of research relevant to this activity include digital transmission, optical communications, digital signal processing and digital networks.

Candidates should have an honours degree and relevant experience in university or industry, together with a proven record of research in the area of digital communications.

Applications (ten copies), including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, should reach the Registrar (S/504/T), University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, from whom further particulars may be obtained, by 24 December 1986.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
Department of Law
Lectureship

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Law (salary scale £8,020 - £15,700, under review) for appointment from 1 October 1987, from candidates with interests and expertise in any of the major fields of legal study but preference will be given to candidates with experience in EEC law.

Applications (ten copies), including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should reach the Registrar (L/505/T), University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ, from whom further particulars may be obtained, by 24 December 1986.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
PRESS AND
INFORMATION
OFFICER

The University of Aberdeen invites applications for the above post within its Administration.

The successful applicant will be responsible for developing all aspects of the University's internal and external communication policy.

Among the qualifications which will be looked for in the intending applicants, will be evidence of successful experience in Press and Public Relations and an ability to communicate effectively. Knowledge of the education system would be an added advantage.

The post, which attracts a salary in the range £10,010 and upwards, with placement depending on experience, will initially be filled on a two year engagement (scale under review).

Further particulars and application forms from The Personnel Office, The University, Regent Walk, Aberdeen AB9 1FX, with whom applications (2 copies) should be lodged by 22 December 1986 (Post No Enquiries).

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3 Jan 2 Feb. Mrs Phyllis
Lindsay, Lecturer in Charge,
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London W1Y 3PE. Tel: 01-425 2506
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3 Jan 2 Feb. Mrs Phyllis
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177-18 Darnley Street, Park Lane
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FELLOWSHIPS

PRIFYSGOL CYMRU UNIVERSITY OF WALES
UNIVERSITY
FELLOWSHIPS

Applications are invited for a limited number of
Fellowships in session 1987-88, available at the
following Constituent Institutions:-

The University College of Wales, Aberystwyth
The University College of North Wales, Bangor
University College, Cardiff
The University College of Swansea
UNIST, Cardiff
St David's University College, Lampeter

The Fellowships are tenable for two years from 1
October, 1987, and are open to graduates of any
University. Candidates should possess a research degree.

The stipend will normally be £8,020 (first year) rising to
£8,505 (second year). This is at present under review.
Applicants may obtain further details and application
forms from the Registrar of the Institution they wish to
enter, or from the Registrar of the University. The
completed form should be lodged with the Registrar,
University of Wales, University Registry, Cathays Park,
Cardiff CF1 3NS by 2 February, 1987.

THE NAHUM GOLDMANN
FELLOWSHIP

The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
announces the establishment of the Nahum
Goldmann Fellowship, a Summer Institute for
cultural advancement and leadership training for a
limited number of outstanding young men and
women in Europe between the ages of 25 and 40
years of age.

The Institute will be held at Carmel College, near
Wallingford, England, from Sunday, August 16
until Monday, August 31, 1987.

Further information and applications can be
obtained from:

**The Nahum Goldmann
Fellowship**
P.O. Box 191
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

University of Reading
M.A.F.F. Sponsored
Postdoctoral Fellowship
in Plant Pathology

Applications are invited for a Fellowship tenable
for two years, to study the biology and control of
root diseases in rockwood, under a M.A.F.F.
funded research programme, directed by
Professor G.F. Pegg. Applicants should hold a
Ph.D. in plant pathology or a related subject and
have an interest in whole plant physiology and
expression. A knowledge of hydroponics and
automated or semi-automated nutrient control
systems would be helpful. The project will have
technical assistance. Salary will be in the range
£8,020 - £9,495 per annum (under review) based
on age and experience. Apply immediately
quoting Ref R61A for an Application Form to the
Personnel Officer, University of Reading,
Whiteknights, P.O. Box 217, Reading RG6 2AH,
telephone (0734) 875123 ext 235.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
C W MAPLETHORPE
POSTDOCTORAL
FELLOWSHIPS FOR
PHARMACEUTICAL
EDUCATION AND
RESEARCH

Applications are invited for C W Maplethorpe
Postdoctoral Fellowships tenable from
October 1987 for a maximum period of up to
three years. The Fellowships have been
established under the Will of the late
Mr Cyril W Maplethorpe, for the promotion of
pharmaceutical education and research at the
School of Pharmacy and the Chelsea
Department of Pharmacy at King's College
London.

Fellows must hold a PhD degree or be in
possession of other qualifications which in the
opinion of the Committee of Management
enable them to undertake a full programme of
research at the required level. Preference will
be given to Registered Pharmacists.

The Stipend of each Fellowship will be related to
the Lecturer Scale and will depend on the
qualifications of the Fellow and the stage
reached in his or her career. London
Allowance will also be paid.

Applications must be submitted at latest by 31
January 1987 on the prescribed form which
may be obtained together with further
particulars of the Fellowships from the
Scholarships Office, Senate House, Malet
Street, London WC1E 7HU.

University of Reading
Industry-sponsored
Postdoctoral Fellowship
in Plant Pathology

Applications are invited for a microbiology/plant
pathology Fellow to work on the development of
novel biocontrol for the control of root disease
pathogens in hydroponic systems.

The post, sponsored by industry, is for two years in
the first instance, and will involve close collaboration
with the industrial research group.

Applicants should hold a Ph.D. in Microbiology or
Plant Pathology and have a special interest in root
pathogens in aqueous systems and, or the chemistry
of crop protection. The work will be under the
direction of Professor G.F. Pegg.

The person appointed will be provided with technical
assistance. Salary will be in the range £8,020 - £9,495
per annum (under review) based on age and
experience.

Apply immediately quoting Ref R61A for an
Application Form to the Personnel Officer, University
of Reading, Whiteknights, P.O. Box 217, Reading
RG6 2AH, telephone (0734) 875123 ext 235.

UNIVERSITY OF
NOTTINGHAM
DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICS

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP -
Physicist, Chemist or Mathematician

A postdoctoral research assistant (SERC
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The work concerns the dynamics of molecules,
particularly quantum tunnelling at low
temperatures using novel nuclear magnetic
resonance techniques and neutron scattering
with computer simulations. The RA could
contribute in a number of possible ways from
development of equipment or theory, to
exploitation of the techniques in new materials
of chemical or biological interest. Salary about
£9,000.

Further information from Professor S Clough,
Department of Physics, University of
Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2RD. (Tel: 0602-
506701 Ext 2867).

University of London
CHAIR OF ORTHODONTICS AT THE
INSTITUTE OF DENTAL SURGERY

The Senate invite applications for the above Chair. Applications
(21 copies) should be submitted to the Teachers' Section (T),
University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London
WC1E 7HU, from whom further particulars should be
obtained.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 23 January 1987.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
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FOR VISUAL
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Established with the assistance of Granada Television
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academic centre exploring the potential contributions
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Applicants should have research interests in Social
Anthropology and experience of anthropological film-
making. The Director will be affiliated to the
Department of Social Anthropology. Appointment
according to qualifications and experience, on either
the Lecturer or Senior Lecturer Scales (£8,020 -
£15,700 p.a. or £14,870 - £18,625 p.a. under review).
The appointment will commence on July 1st, 1987,
and will be for an initial period of three years.
Application forms (returnable by February 28th,
1987) from The Registrar, The University,
Manchester M13 9PL. Quote Ref: 264/86. Informal
enquiries may be made to Professor Marylyn
Strathern, Department of Social Anthropology
(Tel: 061 273 7121 ext. 5160).

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The post will fall vacant at the end of the Summer
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Further details and application forms can be obtained
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School, Haynes Park, Bedford, MK45 3BL. Tele-
phone Haynes 234. Closing date for applications
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Children give their seniors a lesson

By Pat Butcher
Athletics Correspondent

Nothing succeeds like success, and the extent to which British athletics has been transformed by the success of the young boys who have been the main attraction of the recent cross-country season is a testament to the power of the example. The success of the young boys has been a revelation to the world of athletics, and it is a testament to the power of the example that the young boys have given to the seniors.

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On Saturday, the young boys gave their seniors a lesson in the art of cross-country running. The young boys were the main attraction of the recent cross-country season, and their success was a revelation to the world of athletics.

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Croft and Gomer save the blushes and keep Britain buoyant

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Eindhoven

Annabel Croft and Sara Gomer have kept Britain in the six-strong first division of the new European Cup competition for women. They beat Switzerland 2-0 yesterday (the doubles were scrapped) in a relegation play-off. Miss Croft won 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 against Lillian Drescher and Miss Gomer beat Christine Joffe 6-1, 1-6, 6-2.

This was no resounding triumph. Two moderate matches merely confirmed the players' world rankings. But at least Britain stopped an embarrassing run of defeats at the hands of a United States reserve team in the Wightman Cup and, in this event, against West Germany's fourth team and then against a French reserve side. Switzerland, on the other hand, were at full strength - modest though that is.

This inaugural event has been bizarre. Of the six teams engaged, only Switzerland and Sweden were represented by their best players. Britain were without Jo Durie and the Dutch had to make do with

what was almost a third team. The status of the Germans and French has already been noted.

This strange assortment of players was inevitable. The event was an innovation, its status was ambiguous, and it had no sponsor or prize money. Now that the European Tennis Association has a known product to sell, rather than an idea, it may secure the sponsorship already nailed down for the corresponding men's event, which is 30 years old. Even the women's world team championship, for the Federation Cup, had a lukewarm response in its early years.

Other than the locally prevalent hazard of being run down by a bicycle, even a tennis tournament well organized (without the benefit of experience) at a charming, hospitable and well-equipped village club with 12 courts indoors and eight outdoors.

The obvious flaw was the decision to run the women's

team event two courts away from a commonplace men's tournament featuring the leading Dutchmen. The consequences were briefly noted yesterday when Miss Gomer's match began. An entire stand was occupied by one lone spectator. "He may be drunk," observed one of the paid entourage, "but he ain't dumb."

Another extraordinary feature was that the two most lowly ranked teams came within a point of contesting the final. The Germans made it but on Saturday evening the Dutch, having won both singles with inspired performances against surprised and nervously erratic Swedes, failed to win any of their nine match points in the doubles. That doubles decided whether Sweden or the Netherlands would advance to yesterday's final.

All ended well, because the best team won and the stands were respectfully populated for this first occasion of its kind. Carina Karlsson, the pretty little elf who became the first qualifier to reach the last eight at Wimbledon (in 1984), beat Andrea Betzner 6-0, 6-3 and the pucky Swedish No.1, Catarina Lindqvist, then wrapped it up with a 6-2, 7-6 win over Silke Meier.

Back in 1936 Sweden invented the idea of a European team championship. They have won the men's title more often than any other nation. Now Sweden have won the first women's championship. Bizarre though the tournament was, it had a perfect finish.

McEnroe beats Lendl

Atlanta (AP) - John McEnroe, of America, is starting to feel comfortable again, especially after his unexpected victory on Saturday over Ivan Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, in the semifinals of the \$500,000 (€352,112) A-T-and-T Challenge tournament.

McEnroe, the former world No. 1 player who has fallen to 12th after a self-imposed six-month lay-off, beat the world's top-ranked player, 6-4, 7-5.

McEnroe was due to meet



Heroes' return: Nigel Mansell (left), the British motor racing driver, with his team boss Frank Williams during the Tribute to Williams day at Brands Hatch yesterday. Williams, still paralysed following a car crash early this year, and Mansell were greeted by nearly 15,000 people on a misty morning. Mansell rewarded them with a blistering exhibition of driving. After a few fast laps he ruined a set of tyres by putting his car through five 360 degree turns at full throttle in front of the grandstand. After a wheel change he performed an encore. (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

NETBALL

No place for ladies in England team

By Patricia Davies

The noise was excruciating. If 7,000 schoolgirls were not exhorting their favourites to score, the public address system was exhorting the girls to be more vocal, or contenting itself with blasting them with something that was not Mozart. Quiet it was not.

It was an international and England against Australia is never an occasion for reflection and meditation. The Evian international at Wembley Arena on Saturday was no exception - the non-stop racket off court was matched by the non-stop effort on, with Australia, the world champions, winning by 44 goals to 35.

England were bitterly disappointed. The week before, at Gateshead, they had held the Aussies to a single goal (40-39) and really believed they could beat them this time, for the first time on English soil. Or, at least, England's coach, Heather Croft, and her team believed they could win. General opinion was more muted. World had it the Australians were out to murder England.

They were more humane than that, but once they had withstood England's first-quarter flurry and recovered from a 6-4 deficit to lead 7-6 at the end of the quarter, the Australians dominated with their swift, free-flowing passing and, crucially, their much more accurate shooting.

"Sickening," was how England's veteran captain and goal attack, Jillian Hipsey, described the result. "We played so much better in Gateshead, but really believed they were going to beat us here and their shooting was better than ours. Good shooting is a feature of Australian netball and we've got to get ours better."

Warning to her best mate, Mrs Hipsey - who at 38 had just won her 84th cap and played in her last Wembley - went on: "We've also got to learn to play against defences like theirs. They're tougher and better, they keep on you, they jump well and they launch themselves at you. They're strong and aggressive while we're probably been a bit too meek in the past. We can't afford to be lulled by a soft netball. Australian netball has a reputation for being very aggressive and though netball is a non-contact sport, the interpretation of the rules, differs somewhat from the southern to the northern hemisphere. Australia's netball is a lot more physical, it's penalised frequently and by a slight shake of the head made it known they did not do things like that back home."

Back home, netball is indeed a different game. There are 550,000 registered players - England boasts between 40,000 and 60,000 - and the Australian captain, Anne Sargeant, aged 28, reckons they could field two or three international sides.

Their training - and England's is not so different - is less like basketball. There are sprints, weights, shooting practice, skills practice - no more recreation this.

"The only reward is winning," said Mrs Croft. But while she neglects her family and fits her coaching duties, she is not a netballer. She is a mother of three, and a coach. England's netball team is a team of mothers and daughters.

As it is, the debut level hit 103 - two more than the limit deemed acceptable at pop concerts in the Arena - and a lot of cardiovascular might and recovery should England beat Australia when they next meet, probably at the world tournament in Glasgow in August.

BOBSLEIGHING

Army oblige Phipps to pull out stops

By Chris Moore

British bobsleighting received a double boost on the eve of the new season with two world-class performances in Igls, Austria, over the weekend. Nick Phipps produced the first two runs, over recorded on the Austrian track of 52.90 seconds as his Allied Steel crew of Bob Thorne, Keith Power, and Alan Cressman came behind at the last. The first two runs were British two-man championships. Phipps had surprisingly trailed in second place overnight behind Stan Toot's Army team, whose start time of 5.30 seconds on the opening *lauf* was the fastest ever by a British crew and only 0.01 sec outside the best in the world last season.

"Make no mistake, these were two world-class performances," said a delighted British team manager, Mo Hammond. Toot's team, made up of Dave Armstrong, Brian Richards, and Lennie Paul, led by 0.04 seconds after the first two runs. But Phipps pulled out the stops on the third *lauf* and with a final time of 53.01 seconds ran out winner by 0.54 sec.

RESULT: 1. Phipps, Thorne, Power, 53.01; 2. Toot, Armstrong, Richards, 53.05; 3. De La Haye, Edwards, Robertson, 53.30; 4. De La Haye, Edwards, Robertson, 53.37; 5. De La Haye, Edwards, Robertson, 53.47.

Swimming

Botterill confirms promise

By Roy Moore

Yorkshire asserted their supremacy in an uncertain manner in regaining the Esso International County Championship at Nuneaton on Saturday. Their impressive all-round strength was highlighted by Mark Botterill whose win in the under-17s 200 metres freestyle in 1m 55.33 confirmed the view that he could become one of Britain's foremost freestyle swimmers in the not too distant future.

His success helped Yorkshire to an overall score of 184 points, 28 ahead of Essex, the runners-up. Yorkshire's clear win was achieved in spite of their junior international, Helen Frank, being beaten to the touch in both the 100 and 200 metres under-17 breaststroke.

In the 100 metres breaststroke Ian McKenzie, aged 14 from Birmans, won decisively, finishing 1m 41.40. He was ahead of Devon's Paul Pedder who won the 200 metres individual medal. Helen Slater, the Kelly College international, was outstanding in Devon's team and distinguished herself by winning the under-17 individual medley, the under-17 backstroke and the 100 metres freestyle events.

Melanie Bradley also showed outstanding form, winning the under-17 butterfly in 2m 18.56 sec, and the 100 metres butterfly from Norfolk's Donna Simpson in 1m 53.39 sec.

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